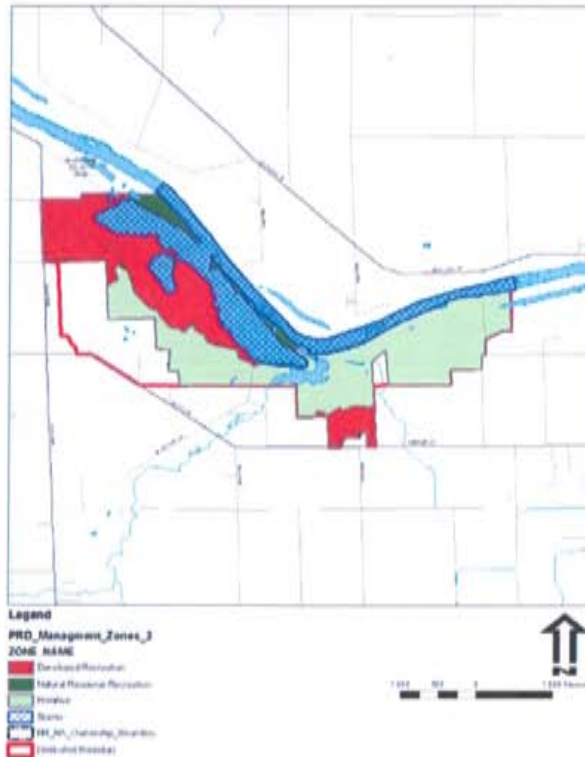


GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Long-range management guidance focused on the specific natural resources, historic-cultural resources, recreation opportunities, and the education-interpretation opportunities for...

Bass River Recreation Area



Prepared by:

Paul N. Curtis, Park Management Plan Administrator
Joe Strach, District Planner
Scott Lambert, Planning Assistant
Nathan LaFramboise, Intern
Brittany Blankenship, Intern


PLAN APPROVALS:



Chief, Parks and Recreation Division



Date



Deputy Director, Natural Resources



Date



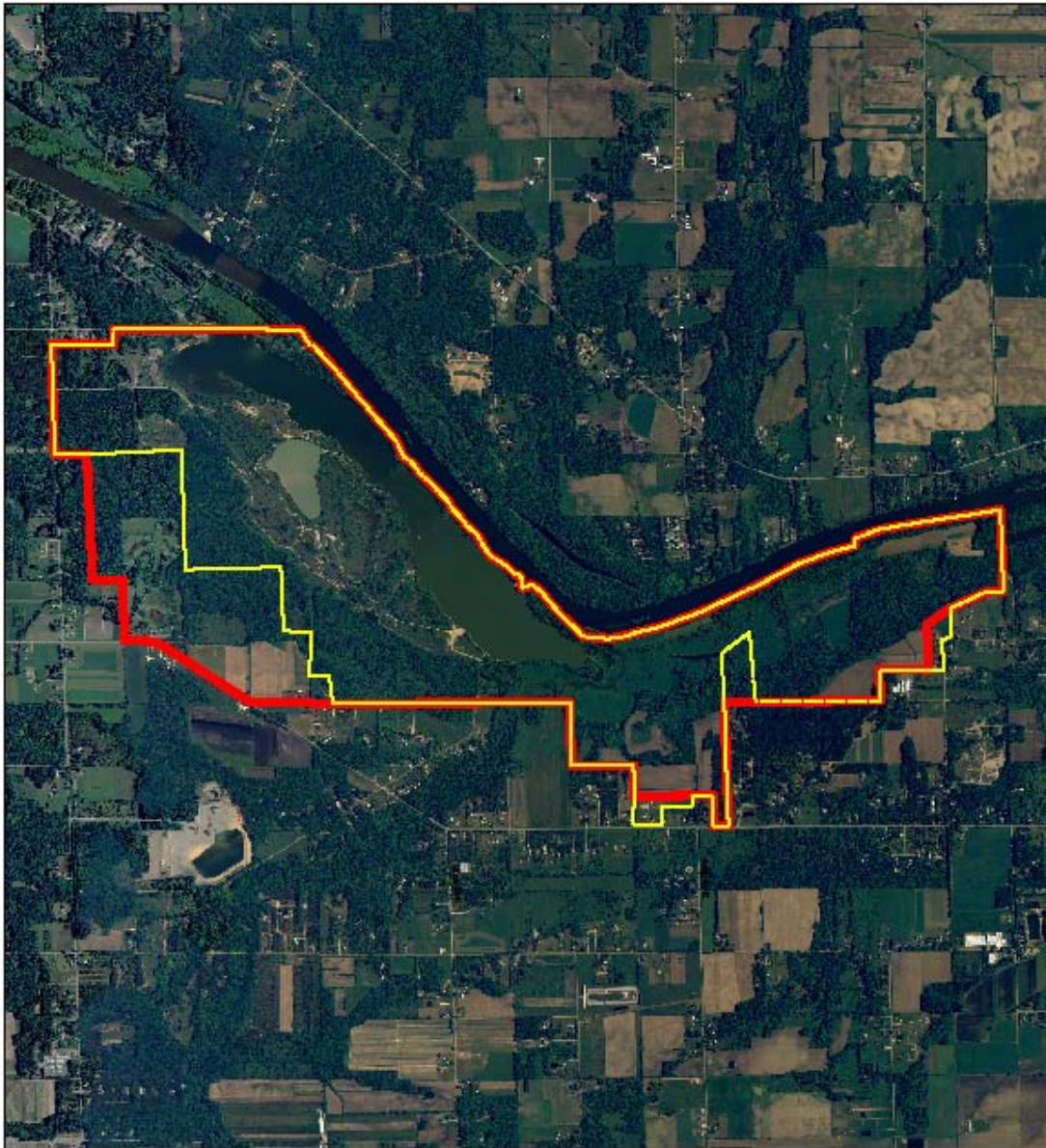
Director, Michigan Department of Natural Resources





Date



Bass River Recreation Area



Base Features

-  Bass River RA
-  NRC Dedicated Boundary (2004)



0 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 1.5 Miles

RESOLUTION NO. 02-2012-05

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE “SILVER LAKE STATE PARK – PHASE 1 - GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN”

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 9, 2012

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division has completed Phase 1 of the General Management Plan for Silver Lake State Park; and

WHEREAS, the planning process reflects sensitivity to natural resource values, historic and cultural resource values, recreation and education opportunities, and is inclusive of all DNR programs and representative of eco-management; and

WHEREAS, the planning process was further inclusive of stakeholder, constituent, and public input; and

WHEREAS, the General Management Plan represents sound guidance for future planning phases that will be consistent with the mission of the DNR and the Parks and Recreation Division, and reflective of the purpose and significance of Silver Lake State Park; and

WHEREAS, the General Management Plan has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Parks and Recreation Division and the MSPAC Stewardship and Operations Subcommittee.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Silver Lake State Park – Phase 1 - General Management Plan; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee further recommends that the DNR Director approve the Phase 1 – General Management Plan for Silver Lake State Park; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the DNR Director’s approval, the Parks and Recreation Division initiate the Phase 2 – Long Range Action Goals Plan for Silver Lake State Park.

Submitted by: Chris Graham, Chair, MSPAC Operations and Stewardship Subcommittee

Motioned by: Chris Graham
Seconded by: Todd Scott

Yeas: 9
Nays: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: 7

This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their February 9, 2012, meeting as Resolution No. 02-2012-05.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
Executive Summary	5-7
Introduction.....	8
Planning Process Overview	
Planning Objectives	
Planning Team.....	9
Core Values	10-16
DNR / PRD Mission	
Park Identity	
- Park Purpose	
- Park Significance	
Legal Mandates	
Management Zone Plan.....	17-29
Primitive Zone	
Primitive Zone with Wetlands Overlay	
Natural Resource Recreation Zone	
Scenic Zone	
Developed Recreation Zone	
Future Plan Inserts (List)	30
10-Year Action Plan (LONG-RANGE ACTION GOALS TO ATTAIN GMP)	(INSERT)
5-Year Action Plan (SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT)	(INSERT)
Annual Action Plan and Progress Report	(INSERT)
Operational / Management Resources.....	(INSERT)
- Annual Work Plan (NOTE...this should tie-in with Phase 4 – Annual Report of Management Planning)	
- Staffing plan	
- Budget plan	
- Equipment inventory and needs	
- Training (required and desired)	
- Public relations / marketing / outreach	
- Programming (special events, MCCC activities, volunteers, etc.)	
- Public health, safety and welfare	
- Water system	
- Wastewater system	
- Electrical system	
- Law enforcement	
- Emergency access plans	
- Wildfire management plan	
- Dam Safety reports	
- CRS	

- FOIA
- Raster Image Index
- Raster Images of historic park plans
- Park Infrastructure data
- Parcel mapping of land ownership
- Other...

Supporting Analysis..... 31-49

Park Setting

- Location and surrounding community
- Demographics
- Economic and Employment Statistics
- Government
- Recreation Area History
- Land Ownership and Issues
- Easements
- Relationship of BRRA to Other State Recreation Resources
- Relationship of BRRA to Other Local Recreation Resources
- Land Use

Ecoregional Context

- Water resources
- Climate
- Geology
- Soils
- Flora and Fauna
- Natural Areas

Recreational Resources within BRRA

Education / Interpretation / Visitor Services Resources

- LAPS 'Kids in Park'
- Interpretive programming, displays, and signage
- Volunteer programs

Park Use Statistics and Economic Impacts

- 2004 use statistics
- 2004 economic impact analysis

Stakeholder Input

- DNR programs
- Federal programs
- Local agency programs
- Other state agencies
- Private sector (business)
- Sporting clubs
- Special interests
- Public

Planning Overview..... 50

Meetings

Plan Reviews

Appendix

Wildlife Division Co-Management MOU

Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission Lease

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Long-range planning for Bass River Recreation Area began in September of 2006. “Management Planning” focuses on the four tenants of our Mission Statement which lead us to thoroughly inventory the (1) natural resource values of the park, establish its (2) historic/cultural resources, identify the (3) recreational opportunities and explore the (4) educational and interpretation opportunities.

With this base of knowledge and with input from the “Planning Team” (made up of Department Resource Staff and Ottawa County Representatives), we established an ‘identity’ for the park. The key significance of Bass River Recreation Area (Bass River RA) is the following:

Bass River RA was acquired from Waste Management Inc. in 1994 for outdoor recreation purposes and was assigned to Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) to administer as a State Recreation Area. At that time, Waste Management Inc. was obligated to offer this property, 1,115 acres, “as first right of refusal” to the State of Michigan due to local opposition to the proposed planned use and subsequent court action involving Ottawa County. In 2002, 550 acres (Bakale Tract) were added to the Recreation Area for the purposes of wetland management, outdoor education, and wildlife-related activities. While the entire 1,665 acres are designated as Bass River RA, and managed by Parks and Recreation Division, the Bakale Tract (550 acres) is co-managed by Wildlife Division.

It was also recognized that Bass River RA was situated close to areas of high population density and that there was a strong demand for local and statewide recreational needs.



Prairie Area



Max Lake

In concert with analysis of the park’s purpose and significance, the Planning Team established the appropriate Management Zones and their extent of influence on the park. From a pallet of nine standard zones, we utilized three of these zones for Bass River RA. The Management Zone Plan is found on the

cover of this document and a thorough review of all zones is found within. A condensed review of those zones applied at Bass River RA is as follows:

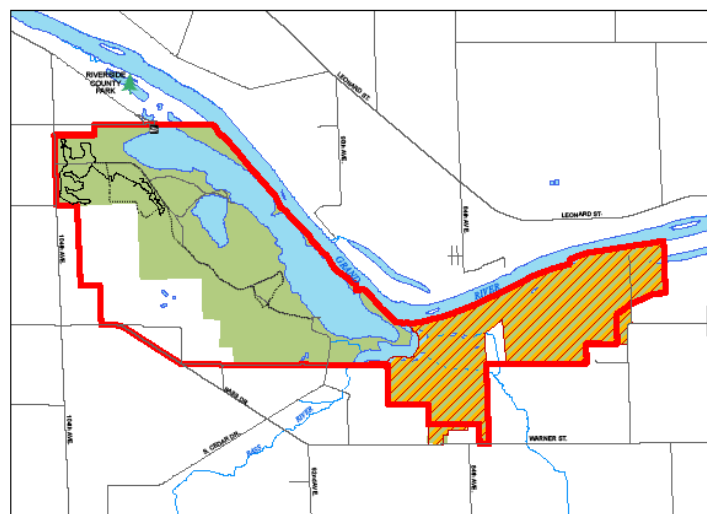
- **Primitive Zone** - This zone takes up 830 acres (50%) of the park. Wildlife Division actively co-manages the easterly part of the park (Bakale Tract) where the natural resources are of higher quality and no mining activities took place. The majority of this zone is within the Grand River floodplain.



Lost Lake

A mixture of northern hardwoods and scattered conifers make up the small amount of forest cover. This area also contains a diverse wildlife habitat. Nearly 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of water frontage exists along the Grand River and nearly 2,400 feet of water frontage along the Bass River.

Bakale Tract



Base Features

- Bass River RA
- NRC Dedicated Boundary (2004)
- Bakale Tract



0 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 1.5 Miles

Natural Resource Recreation Zone - The Natural Resources Recreation Zone comprises 130 acres (8%) of the park. The west end of this zone adjoins Riverside County Park, and is leased to Ottawa County for their park purposes (trails). The east end of this zone is the landform that separates Max Lake (man-made from previous land owner) from the Grand River. This zone is utilized for general recreation, including hunting, fishing, trapping, birding, and trail use.

- **Developed Recreation Zone** – Comprised of 705 acres (42%), the 'Developed Recreation' components of the park are mainly consolidated along Max Lake and Buddy's Pond. The majority of the trails exist within this zone on the west end.

Trail users include the Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) and the Ottawa County Equestrian Trail Riders. These groups play an active role in using and maintaining the six miles of multi-use trail.



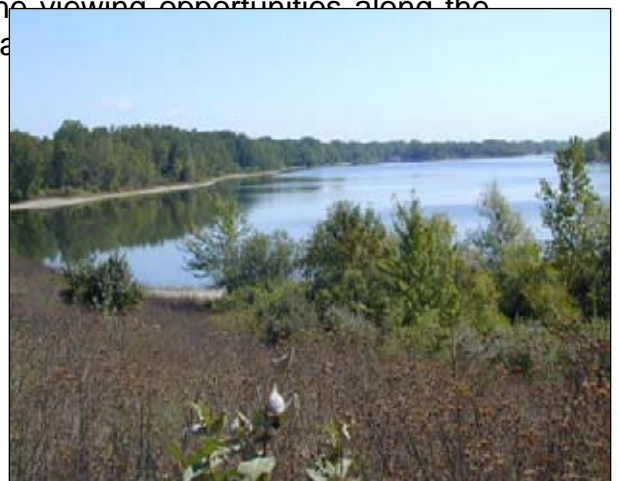
Equestrian trail user



Wake boarder on Max Lake

as that were mined by a former owner, Construction Aggregates. In years past, this area was extensively mined for gravel. A clay cell/waste disposal system, that was never implemented, still exists on the west side of the park. This zone offers a wide range of recreation opportunities to explore in Phase 2 planning.

- **Scenic Zone** - This zone recognizes the viewing opportunities along the Grand River, Buddy's Pond, Max Lake, and of Cedar Drive/Sleeper Street.



INTRODUCTION

View of Max Lake from Cedar Drive

Planning Process Overview - The management planning process develops a series of planning steps, each built upon the previous, that keep all planning and action decisions focused on (1) the mission of the Parks and Recreation Division, and (2) the specific Purpose and Significance of the park.

There are four phases of planning, implemented in the following order:

- **Phase 1** - General Management Plan (GMP) - Long-range (20 yr) goals
- **Phase 2** – Long-range Action Goals Plan - long range (10 yr) goals to attain the GMP (requires review of Phase 1)
- **Phase 3** - 5-Year Implementation Plan – specific actions to implement (requires review of Phase 1 and Phase 2)
- **Phase 4** - Annual Action Plan and Progress Report – what will be done this year and what progress was made on last year's plan

The **General Management Plan** is the first step in our planning process. In this phase of planning, we are defining what the park will look like in twenty years. What will be the condition of flora and fauna? How will we address historic and cultural resources? What recreational opportunities will be provided? What education and interpretation efforts will meet the visitor? What will guide the manager's operational decisions? What will be the visitor's overall experience?

A key tool of this plan is the identification of "Management Zones" which define specific characteristics of the land, addressing management for:

- Natural features
- Historic/cultural features
- Education/interpretation
- Recreational opportunities

These four elements represent the primary goals of the PRD Mission Statement, and provide guidance for both planning and management decisions. Within the parameters of this guidance, "Purpose" and "Significance" statements are developed for the park that establishes its unique identity and focus. No two parks are the same and this emphasis is directed at ensuring that the differences found from park to park are acknowledged, highlighted and celebrated.

Planning Objectives

The objective of this General Management Plan is to bring together Department staff, impacted and impacting stakeholders, and the public who use the park in a planning process that will define and clarify the unique "Purpose" and "Significance" of Bass River RA. Collectively, we will reinforce those attributes in

the planning and management decisions that impact the park through the implementation of the Management Zone Plan. Future action plans, whether focused on a development proposal, a resource improvement initiative, an interpretive program, or day-to-day management of the park will be guided by this Management Zone Plan.

PLANNING TEAM

Accomplishment of our planning objectives was and is dependent upon the valuable input provided by all members of the 'Planning Team'. The following persons were participants in this planning process:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Joe Strach	DNR-PRD, District Planner
Paul Curtis	DNR-PRD, Management Plan Administrator
Roland Johnson	DNR-PRD, District Supervisor
Charles Ehrlich	DNR-PRD, Unit Manager
Dale Rau	DNR-PRD, Unit Supervisor
Ray Fahlsing	DNR-PRD, Stewardship Program Manager
Elizabeth Brockwell-Tillman	DNR-OC, Interpreter
Jay Wesley	DNR-FD, Supervisor
Kregg Smith	DNR-FD, Fisheries Biologist
Kim Dufresne	DNR-FMD, Supervisor
Michael Pine	DNR-FMD, Fire Marshall
Nik Kalejs	DNR-WD, Wildlife Biologist
Scott Lambert	DNR-PRD, Student Planning Assistant
Jeff Johnson	DNR-PRD, Student Planning Assistant
John Scholtz	Ottawa County Parks
Curt TerHarr	Ottawa County Parks

CORE VALUES

Guidance for the Management Zone Plan stems from the Mission Statements of the Department and the Division, and the Purpose and Significance Statements that have evolved through the planning process. The core values found in these statements must be reflected in this long-range Management Zone Plan for Bass River Recreation Area and subsequently reflected in any shorter range action plans:

DNR Mission Statement

"The Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, and accessible use and enjoyment of the state's environment, natural resources, and related economic interests for current and future generations."

PRD Mission Statement

"The Parks and Recreation Division's Mission is to acquire, protect, and preserve the natural and cultural features of Michigan's unique resources, and to provide access to land and water based public recreation and educational opportunities."

The core values derived from these statements are that PRD will acquire, preserve and protect; (1) natural resources, (2) cultural resources, (3) provide public recreation, and (4) provide educational opportunities.

Park Purpose - Park purpose statements are based on park legislation, legislative history, special designations and DNR policies. These statements reaffirm the reasons for which Bass River Recreation Area was identified as part of the State Park system.

- The westerly portion (1,115 Acres) of Bass River RA was established in 1994 as an acquisition from the Waste Management, Inc. At that time, Waste Management Inc. was obligated to offer this property "as first right of refusal" to the State of Michigan due to local opposition to the proposed planned use as a landfill and subsequent court action involving Ottawa County. It was recognized that Bass River RA was located close to areas of high population density and that there was a strong demand for outdoor recreation.
- The easterly portion (550 Acres) of Bass River RA, located east of Bass River, was acquired in 2002 for the purposes of wetland management, outdoor education, and wildlife-related activities. The funding sources came from Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Michigan Duck Hunters Association, and Macatawa Bay Waterfowl Association. This tract is co-managed by Recreation and Wildlife Divisions.

- To preserve and protect the park's unique natural resources for current and future generations.
- To preserve and protect the park's historic/cultural resources.
- To provide opportunities for recreational uses and experiences in an area lacking in same, that are compatible with the park's resource(s) base.
- To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflects the mission of the DNR and the unique qualities of Bass River Recreation Area.

Park Significance - Park significance statements capture the essence of the park's importance to carry out the core values of our PRD Mission. They recognize the natural and cultural heritage values of the park and the recreational and educational opportunities afforded. These statements describe the distinctiveness of Bass River Recreation Area. Understanding these distinctions help managers make decisions that preserve those special resources and values necessary to accomplish the park's purposes.

- Bass River RA, located on the Grand River in Ottawa County, provides inclusive open space in an area lacking in public lands. Roughly 500 acres in the westerly portion of the park was extensively mined for gravel by a former owner, Construction Aggregates. The easterly portion of the park was largely undeveloped and provides productive wildlife habitat.
- Bass River RA has over 3 ¼ miles of water frontage along the Grand River and over ¾ of a mile of water frontage along the Bass River. In addition, the park has a man-made 300 acre lake, Max Lake, attached to the Grand River, Lost Lake (within the Bakale Tract) is roughly 3 acres, and Buddy's Pond is roughly 40 acres. The water access provides a variety of water-based recreational opportunities.
- Bass River RA's 1,665 acres located along the Grand River contributes to a county-wide Grand River Greenway, which preserves open green space consisting of expansive floodplain, wetlands and marshes, and large tracts of forested land.
- Trail usage is a large component of the park. Bass River is a popular year-round destination for mountain bikers, equestrians, cross country skiing, and hikers.
- Bass River RA provides hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities unique to southwest Michigan. Seasonal birds use the Grand River for

orientation during migratory flight. Wildlife Division actively manages the eastern portion of the park to promote wildlife and hunting opportunities.

- It is core that a good partnership with Ottawa county parks is maintained. Both organizations have investments in Bass River and should apprise each other of preservation and development activities.

Legal Mandates

For all park Management Zone Plans, all legal mandates will be identified and will serve to further guide the development of the General Management Plan and subsequent Action Plans. For our planning purposes, the term “Legal Mandates” refers to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of “Policy” and “Directive” of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department, and Parks and Recreation Division. Examples include Wildlife Conservation Orders, Orders of the Director, and all other laws, commission orders, and rules or directives that apply to the park. Specific to Bass River RA, the following legal mandates have been identified:

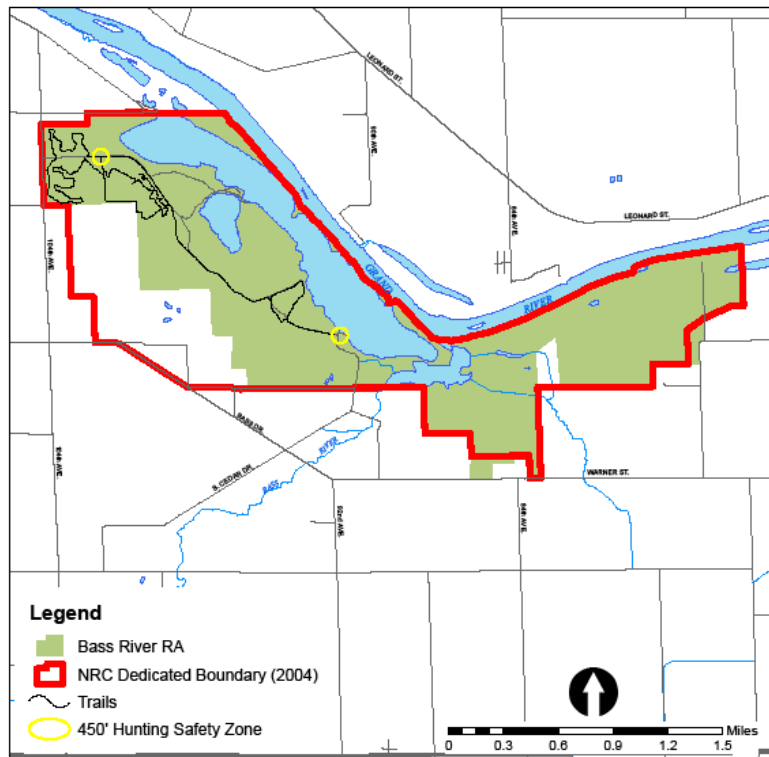
- [PA 451 OF 1994, PART 741 - STATE PARK SYSTEM - NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT](#) - This act is the recodification of law that established the Michigan State Park System and defined the powers and duties of same. Notable in this law is Section 324.74102 which identifies the duties of the department and reinforces those core values cited above.

This section reads:

- (1) “The legislature finds:
 - (a) Michigan State Parks preserve and protect Michigan’s significant natural and historic resources.
 - (b) Michigan State Parks are appropriate and uniquely suited to provide opportunities to learn about protection and management of Michigan’s natural resources.
 - (c) Michigan State Parks are an important component of Michigan’s tourism industry and vital to local economies.
- (2) The department shall create, maintain, operate, promote, and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve and protect Michigan’s significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty or historic significance, to provide open space for public recreation, and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan’s natural resources and need to protect and manage those resources.”

- [Act 108, PUBLIC ACTS OF 1987 AND ACT 304, PUBLIC ACTS OF 1988 FOR THE PURCHASE OF BASS RIVER RECREATION AREA](#) – In 1994, Bass River RA (westerly tract) was purchased with funds from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.
- [PA 35 of 2010, PART 741 \(“Recreation Passport”\)](#) – This act amended the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code to provide for a State Park and State-operated public boating access site “Recreation Passport” that a Michigan resident may obtain by paying an additional fee when registering a motor vehicle. The Recreation Passport is required for entry into all PRD administered facilities and takes the place of the Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP) previously required to be displayed on the windshield.
- [Dedicated Boundaries](#) – The Natural Resources Commission reviewed and rededicated boundary changes for Bass River Recreation Area in 2004.
- [PA 451 OF 1994, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT \(EXCERPT\) – 324.41901 Regulation and prohibitions in certain areas; powers of department; area closures; hearings, investigations, studies, and statement of facts; regulations.](#) – This part of PA 451 establishes the powers of the Department to establish safety zones for hunting. In accordance with the Administrative Rules established by Wildlife Division for hunting safety, a 450’ “Safety Zone” is established around all occupied dwellings (which includes campgrounds). Under the State Land Rules, the Department also has the authority to expand the application of this 450’ “Safety Zone” to encompass “Day-Use Areas” such as beaches, picnic areas, boat launches, and parking areas, should the need arise. This is determined on a case-by-case basis. At Bass River RA, the Hunting Safety Zones are represented below:

Hunting Safety Zones



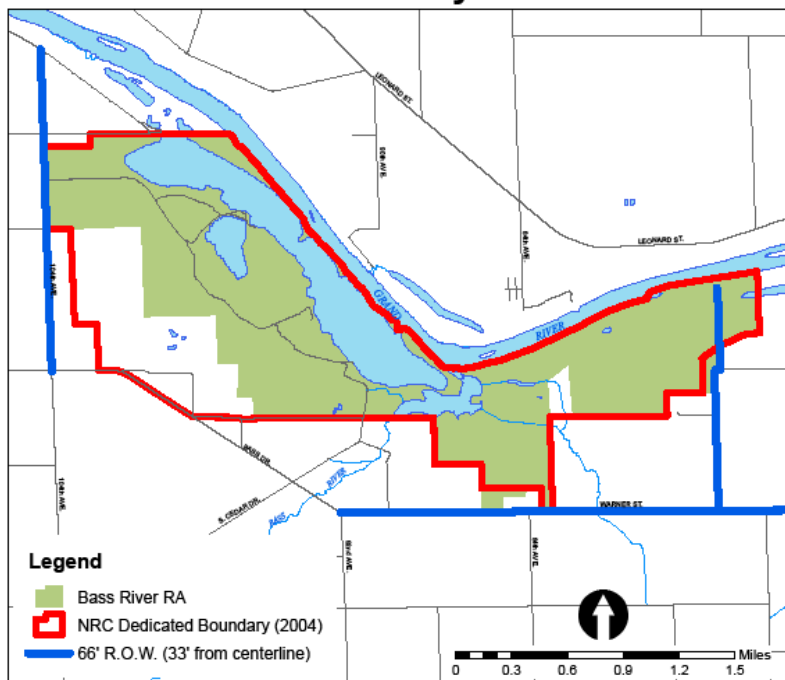
- **LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR** - By authority conferred on the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by Section 504 of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being section 324.504 of the Michigan Compiled Laws and in accordance with R 299.671 and R 299.922 of the Michigan Administrative Code, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources orders that the following order of the Land Use Orders of the Director shall read as follows:

5.2 Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in certain state parks and recreation areas, prohibited conduct. A person shall not do any of the following:

(a) Bass River – Entire Park

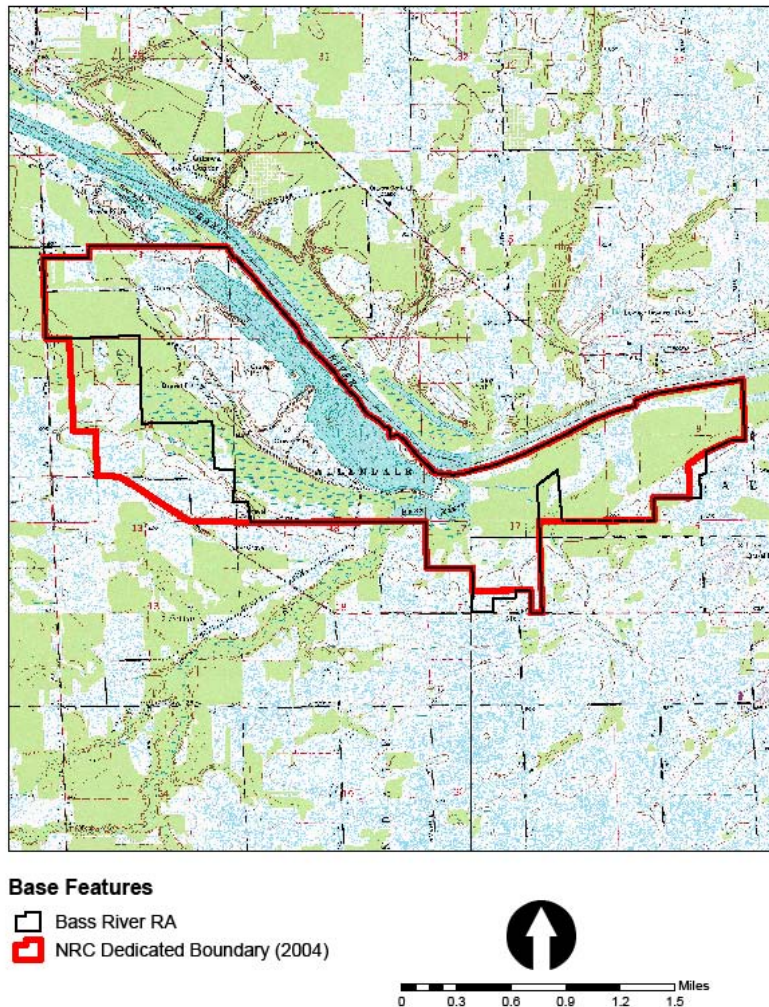
- **R.O.W. FOR COUNTY ROADS** – The Right-of-Way for 104th Avenue, Warner Street, and 72nd Avenue is 66' wide (33' from center line), which are the only county roads impacting Bass River RA. The Ottawa County Road Commission has the authority to require permits for any impacts to their ROW (i.e. crossings or new drives).

Ottawa County R.O.W.



- The Natural Resource Commission has approved a recommended boundary change for the park that includes additional land to the west and east ends of the park.

2004 NRC Dedicated Boundary



The long range goal of this plan is to acquire new land designated in the map above. The Planning Team reviewed this new boundary designation, agreed with the designations, and offered no changes.

- WILDLIFE DIVISION CO-MANAGEMENT MOU – The Bakale Tract (550 acre easterly portion of Bass River RA) is managed by Wildlife Division. Co-management requirements are documented in this MOU. (see Appendix)
- OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION LEASE – A portion of Bass River RA is leased to Ottawa County to compliment Riverside Park, which adjoins the RA at the west end. (see Appendix)

MANAGEMENT ZONE PLAN

With the guidance of the Bass River RA Planning Team (made up of Department resource staff and Ottawa County Park representatives), the park “Purpose and Significance” statements were drafted and adopted. These statements established an identity for the park, to include the following: The westerly portion of the park was established in 1994. It was recognized that the park was located close to areas of high population density and that there was a strong demand for outdoor recreation. The easterly portion of the park was acquired in 2002 for the purposes of wetland management, outdoor education, and wildlife activities.



Waterfowl

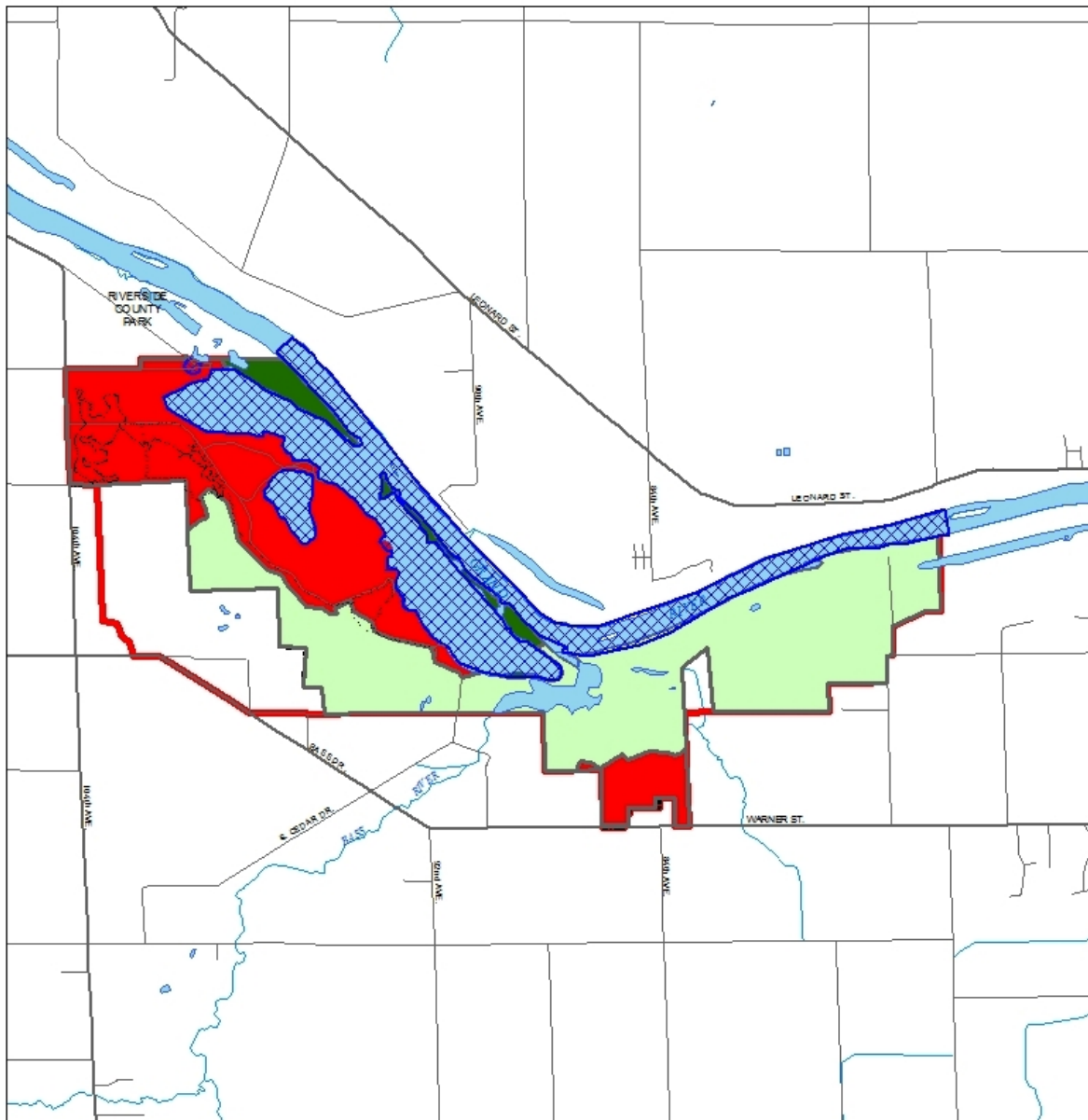


Lost Lake

In addition, Bass River RA provides a variety of water-bases resources with recreational opportunities, contains over 3 ¼ miles of water frontage along the Grand River that contributes to a county-wide Grand River greenway, and has a large portion of parkland within the Grand River floodplain.

Based on this ‘identity’ for the park, a Management Zone Plan” was subsequently drafted and adopted with Planning Team support. The Management Zone Definitions apply to each zone used, with special considerations highlighted in the descriptive narratives of management guidance for each zone of the park.

MANAGEMENT ZONE PLAN



Legend

PRD_Managment_Zones_2

ZONE_NAME

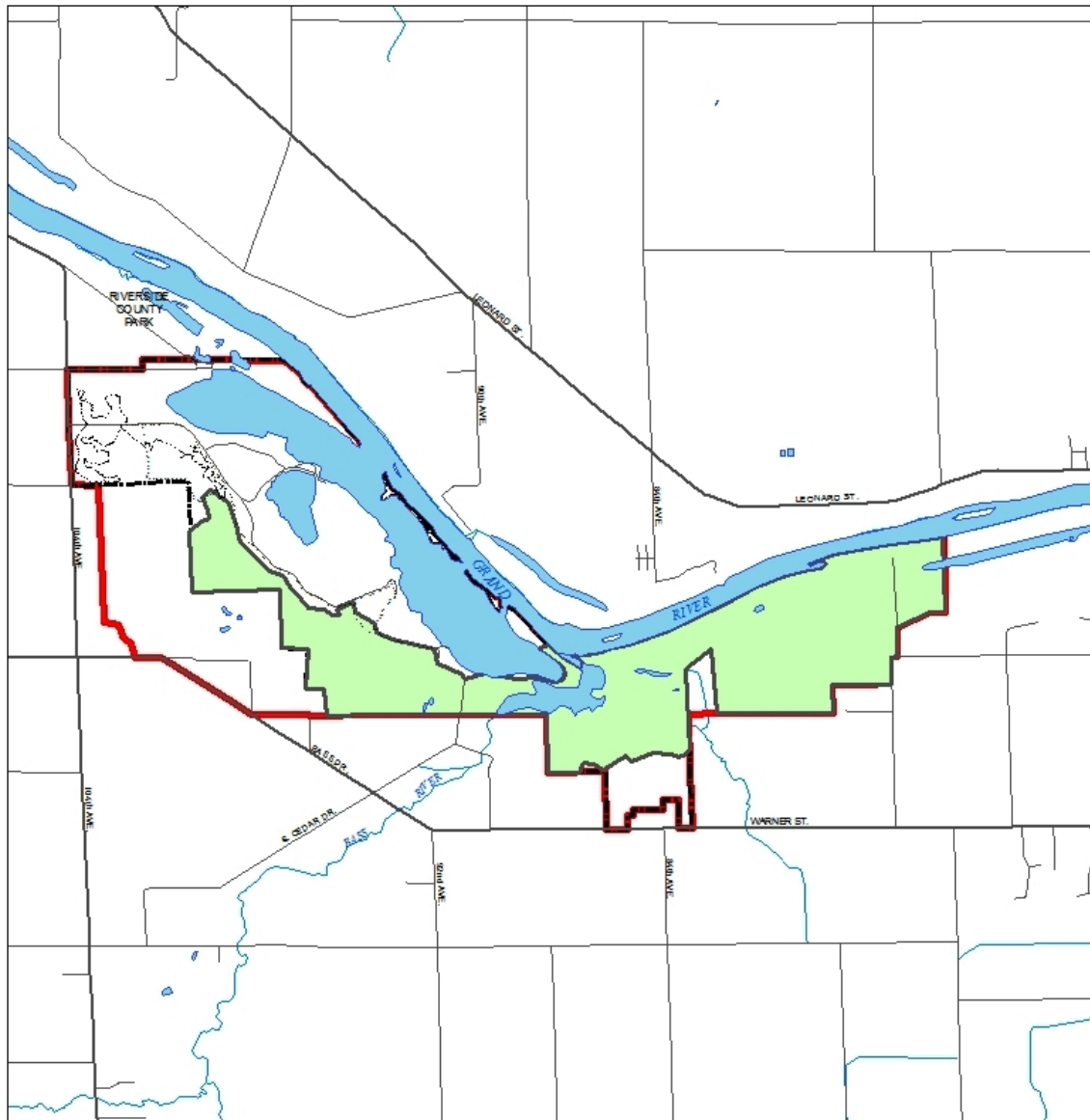
- Developed Recreation
- Natural Resource Recreation
- Primitive
- Scenic
- BR_RA_Ownership_Boundary
- Dedicated Boundary

1,000 500 0 1,000 Meters



PRIMITIVE ZONE

This zone emphasizes the park's high quality natural resources. The Primitive Zone is mainly defined by the floodplain of the Grand River and Bass River. Attaining and maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or uses are allowed.



Legend

ZONE_NAME

Primitive

BR_RA_Ownership_Boundary

Dedicated Boundary

1,000 500 0 1,000 Meters

It is not uncommon for large portions of this 830 acre zone (50% of the park) that is located within the Grand River floodplain, to be flooded by seasonal rains and river fluctuation. The soils within this area are predominately lacustrine sand and gravel silts. This hydrology varies from emergent wetland to forested wetland to open water. Wetland plants, such as cat-tail, bulrush, and spike rush, arrowhead, and water lily can be found in emergent wetlands. The terrain is generally made up of mixed deciduous forest and woody wetlands. Limited areas managed by Wildlife Division are utilized for share cropping and prairie/warm season grasses. The previous land owner channeled portions of the land in order to manipulate the water levels on portions of former agricultural land. The Primitive Zone designation allows for only dispersed and low frequency use, such as foot traffic. No mountain bike or equestrian uses will be permitted.

Although MNFI has not performed a natural features inventory at Bass River RA, Ottawa County had a county-wide inventory completed. Many threatened, endangered, and special concern species, such as the Bald Eagle and Cooper's Hawk, can be expected to be found at Bass River RA.

Following are the prescribed qualities for the Primitive Zone:

- **(P) Natural Resources** - Maintain and restore high-quality floodplain forest, which is characterized by nutrient rich wet soils. The importance of this floodplain forest acts as a buffer to keep excess sediments and nutrients from entering the Grand River and Bass River. The Stewardship Unit will provide guidance.

This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to address hazard trees, invasive species, and pests and disease.

- **(P) Historic/Cultural Resources** - No known historic sites or cultural resources exist in the emergent marshes or floodplain. Since the eastern portion of the park was never mined, there is a probability that this area contains cultural resources from Native Americans.
- **(P) Recreational Opportunities** - With the focus of this zone to maintain and restore the high-quality floodplain forest, and to protect the aquatic and emergent marsh environment, only low impact recreation (dispersed recreation such as hunting, trapping, birding, and fishing) will be allowed in this zone. Wildlife Division actively manages the eastern portion of the park to promote wildlife opportunities. No hiking, equestrian or mountain biking trails will be allowed.

A possible exception may occur however, in that interest from the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission exists to potentially establish a public trail through the recreation area running parallel to the Grand River. This trail corridor, through the Bakale Tract, would be part of a future

County-wide trail. Trail usage specifications, exact trail location, and ADA accessibility would have to be reviewed and determined.

An internal meeting with the Wildlife Division would be necessary since they are co-managers of this tract. This would also include input from the various stakeholders who assisted in acquisition of this land.

If supported, the next step would be to have a public meeting to determine support for a public trail corridor. If a trail was supported, the trail corridor would be defined as Natural Resource Recreation Zone and designated as such through the existing Primitive Zone.

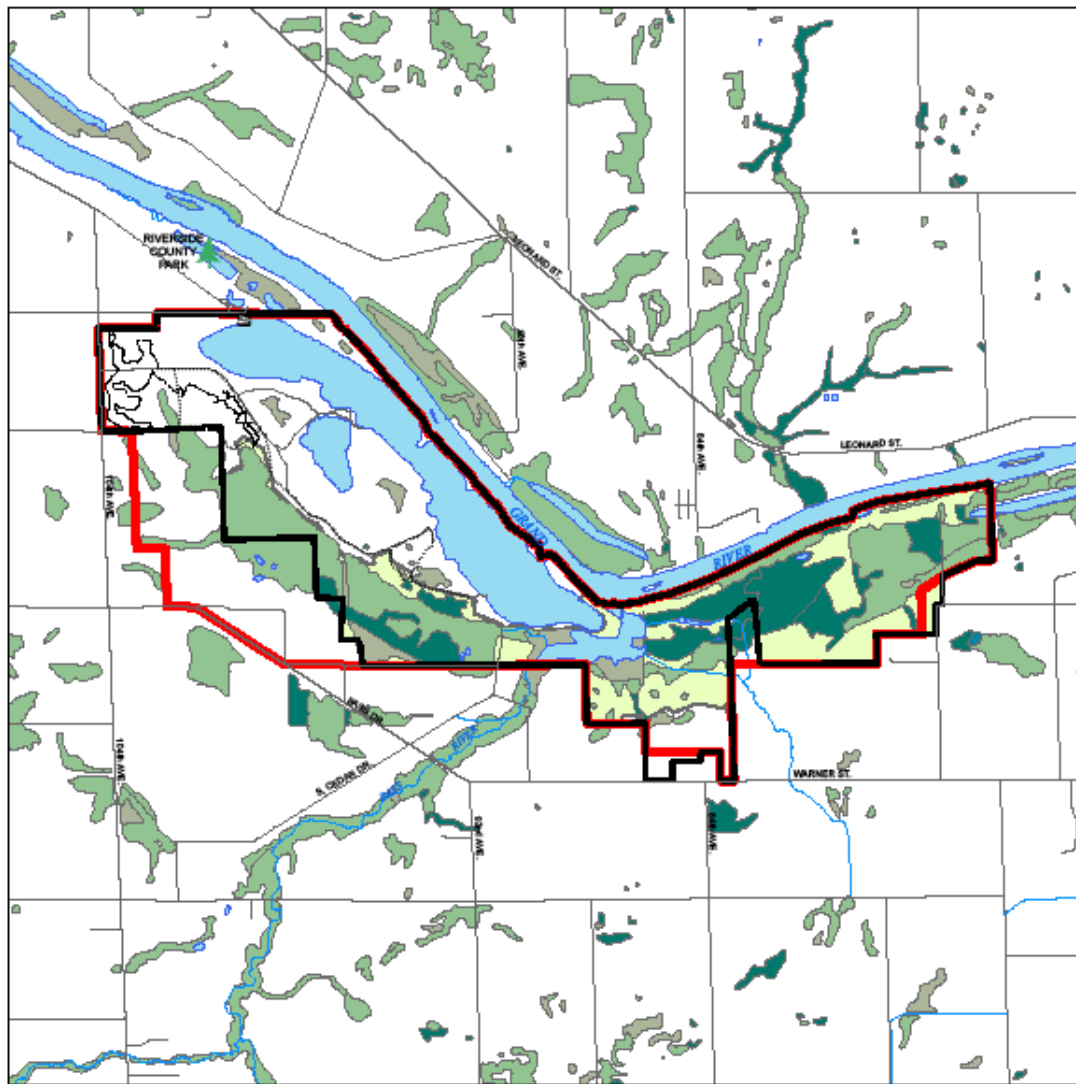
The existing unimproved boating access site from the south will remain open for vehicle traffic across this zone.

- **(P) Education Opportunities** - The ecological significance of the southern floodplain forest, and the habitat that supports the rare aquatic and emergent marsh species, provides excellent educational opportunities. Educational kiosks at trail heads and off-site educational materials could be developed. Specific planning recommendations for education and interpretation will require input from the Marketing, Education, and Technology Division and others.



Wildlife Division has banded ducks in the past and an educational opportunity may exist with the public and volunteers. The variety of natural habitats and the potential for hunting makes Bass River RA a prime location for future educational opportunities.

- **(P) Visitor Experience** - These areas will reflect a 'natural' feel, a significant sense of solitude, and a lack of man-made improvements.
- **(P) Management Focus** - Management of this zone will be focused on maintaining the low-impact character of these areas with an emphasis on natural resource and habitat quality.
- **(P) Development** - Only trail improvements (can include boardwalks and/or overlooks) and educational or interpretive signage will be the evidence of man-made elements in this zone. Any improvements needed for resource protection, such as erosion control, shall be 'natural' in character. The focus is to maintain as little evidence of human activity as possible. All development will meet the approval requirements of the planning process. The easterly 550 acres of Bass River RA was acquired with funding from Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Michigan Duck Hunters Association, and Macatawa Bay Waterfowl Association. Any proposal for development within this easterly portion of the park should offer the courtesy of review and comment from these groups and that of Wildlife Division.

PRIMITIVE ZONE WITH WETLANDS OVERLAY



Base Features

-  Bass River RA
-  NRC Dedicated Boundary (2004)

Wetlands

-  Aquatic Bed
-  Emergent
-  Forested
-  Scrub-Shrub

PRD Management Zones

-  Primitive

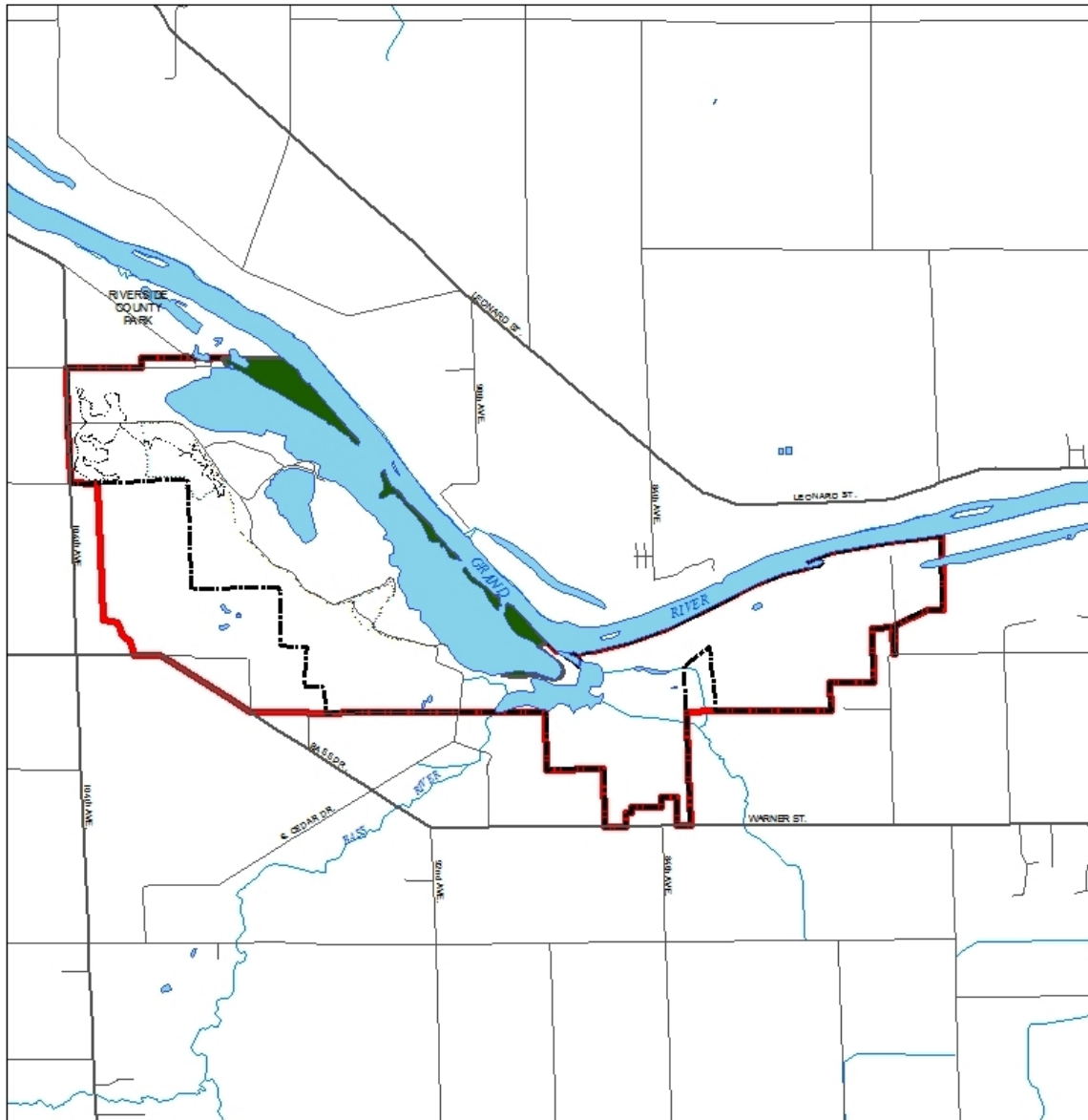


0 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 1.5 Miles

This map illustrates the primary influence (impact of wetlands) for designation of this area as "Primitive Zone."

NATURAL RESOURCE RECREATION ZONE (NRR)

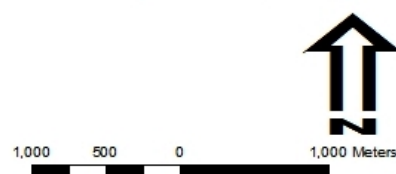
The Natural Resource Recreation Zone is a small portion of the park with 130 acres (8% of the park). This zone is utilized for active recreation. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone higher levels of use are allowed. The area of this zone is the land mass that separates the Grand River from Max Lake. The west end of this zone connects with Riverside Park, and is leased to Ottawa County for recreation uses.



Legend

ZONE_NAME

- Natural Resource Recreation
- BR_RA_Ownership_Boundary
- Dedicated Boundary



The majority of this area was mined by a former land owner, Construction Aggregates. Max Lake, Buddy's Pond, and many smaller excavated areas were a direct result of mining activities within the Bass River RA.

- **(NRR) Natural Resources** - In general, the natural resources can be modified to support visitor activities. Much of this zone has been mined for gravel. The mined portions of the park that are connected to the Grand River have formed Buddy's Pond and Max Lake.

Opportunities exist to work with Fisheries Division to establish a fish stocking program to increase fishing opportunities at Max Lake and Buddy's Pond.

This zone will reflect natural processes, with more proactive vegetative management only allowed to address hazard trees, invasive species, and pests and disease. Where appropriate, allow areas to go back to natural vegetation.

- **(NRR) Historic/Cultural Resources** - Although a good portion of this zone has been mined, any activity in this zone requiring earthwork must first be reviewed and approved by Stewardship Unit. There is good probability that there are cultural resources from Native American Indians along the Grand River.
- **(NRR) Recreation Opportunities** - This zone is utilized for general recreation. This zone includes: hunting, fishing, trapping, birding, and trail use.

PRD has entered into a long term lease for co-management of the park with Ottawa County Parks and Recreation. They are managing the 'point' portion of the park adjacent to Riverside Park to expand their trail system along the river. The long-term lease agreement for management of this parcel is mutually beneficial.

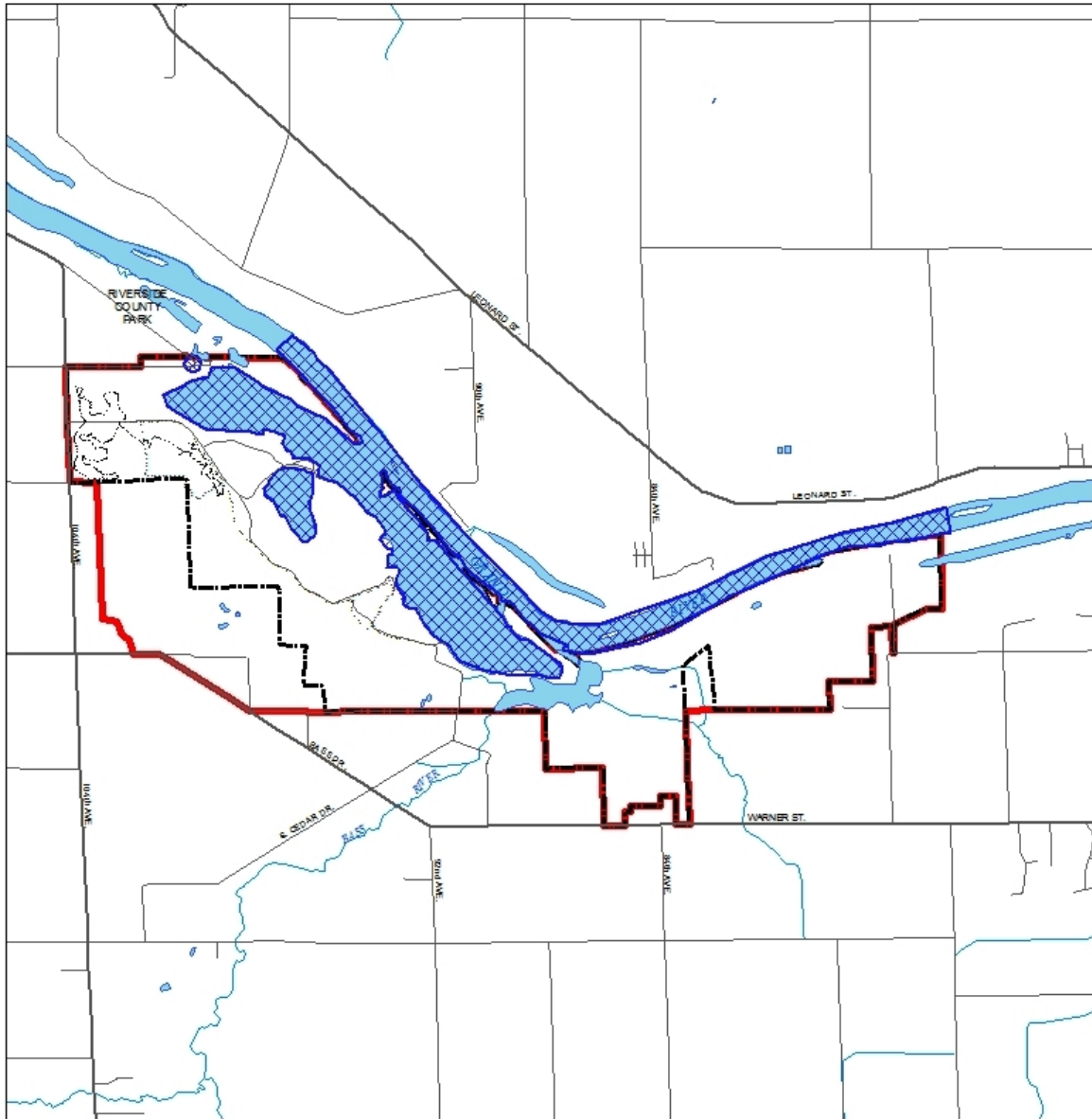
This expansion may also include a portion of the Bakale Tract, currently designated as the Primitive Zone. The potential exists to establish a public trail corridor through this area running parallel to the Grand River, becoming part of a future County-wide trail. Trail usage specifications, exact trail location, and ADA accessibility would have to be reviewed and determined. An internal meeting with the Wildlife Division would be necessary since they are co-managers of this tract. The next step would be to have a public meeting to support for a public trail corridor. If a trail was supported, the trail corridor would be defined as Natural Resource Recreation Zone and designated as such through the existing Primitive Zone.

The main park road presently ends at the trail head (accessed from 104th Street) and the boat access site (accessed from South Cedar Drive). A special use permit is needed to use the middle portion of the park road, which is confusing to visitors. Ideally, this portion of the road would be improved and opened up to provide through access from 104th Street to South Cedar Drive.

- **(NRR) Education Opportunities** - Information regarding the cultural past can be made available at areas of congregation and fortified through educational opportunities. Informational kiosks are one good way to disseminate this information. A possible location for a signed kiosk would be at the trailhead located off of 104th Avenue and through cooperative efforts with Ottawa County Parks and Recreation.
- **(NRR) Visitor Experience** - The visitor can expect encounters with other park visitors during all four seasons, particularly on the lands leased to Ottawa County.
- **(NRR) Management Focus** - The management focus in this zone is minimizing potential user conflicts and implementing educational efforts. Work well in conjunction with Ottawa county and local clubs to bring the recommendations to fruition.
- **(NRR) Development** - Development activity will focus on complementing the educational efforts to reduce user conflict.




SCENIC ZONE (S)

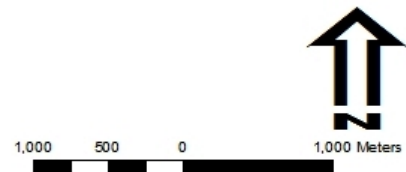
This zone recognizes that there are aesthetic qualities to be preserved and protected in the park. The 525 acre Scenic Zone incorporates the Grand River frontage of the park, Max Lake, Buddy's Pond, and the Bass River frontage of the park.



Legend

ZONE_NAME

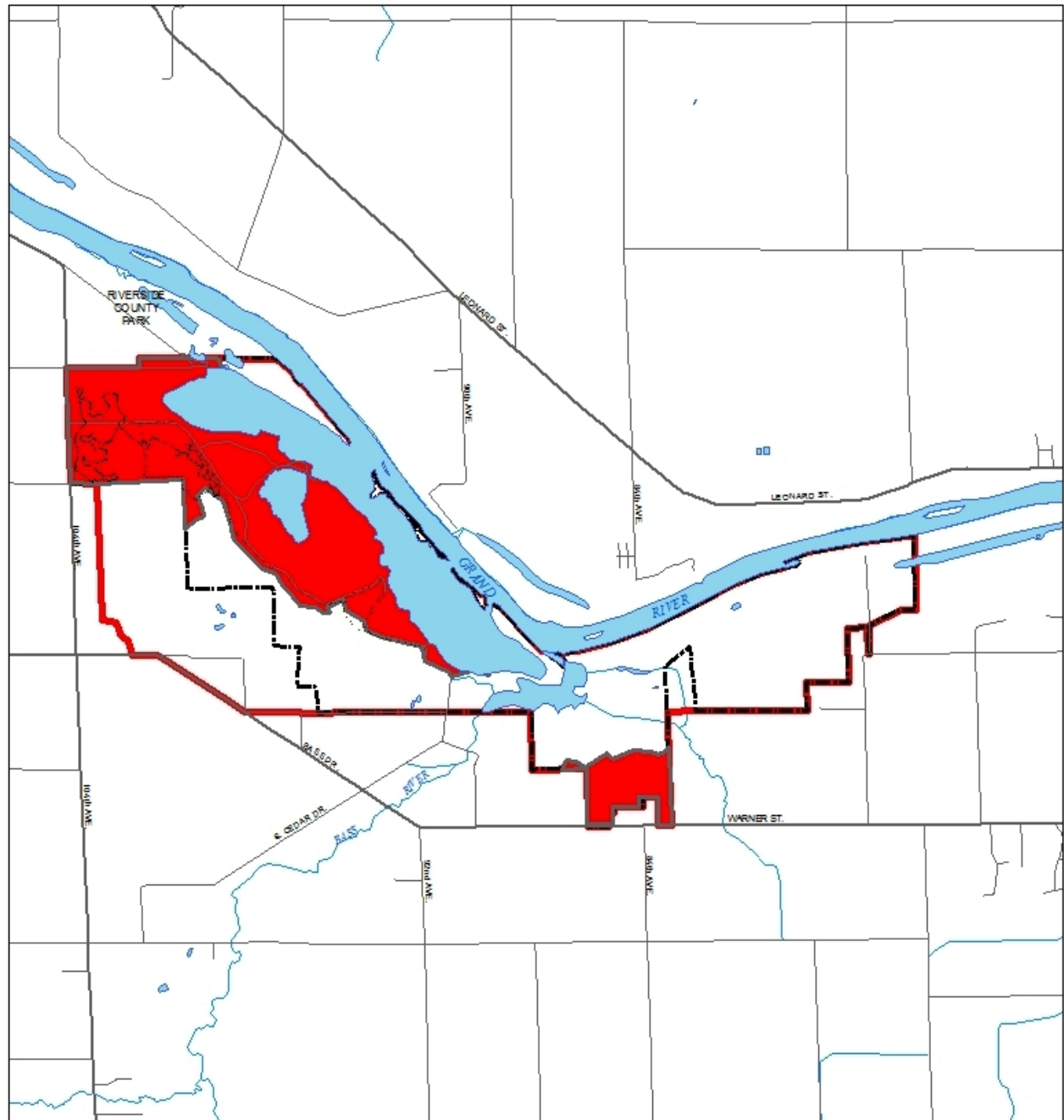
-  Scenic
-  BR_RA_Ownership_Boundary
-  Dedicated Boundary



The Grand River frontage is approximately 3 ¼ miles in length and over ¾ of a mile of water frontage along the Bass River. The park has a man-made 300 acre lake (Max Lake) attached to the Grand River, Lost Lake, and Buddy's Pond. Scenic views not only include views from the shore looking onto the water, but also views from the water looking onto the shoreline and beyond. A scenic overlook exists at the end of Cedar Drive.

- **(S) Natural Resources** - In general, the natural resources can be modified to support visitor activities. In addition, any modification must not hinder existing scenic opportunities.
- **(S) Historic/Cultural Resources** - Although a good portion of this zone has been mined, any activity in this zone requiring earthwork must first be reviewed and approved by Stewardship. There is good probability that there are cultural resources from Native American Indians along the Grand River.
- **(S) Recreation Opportunities** - An unimproved boating access site off of Max Lake provides for water access to the lake and the river. The river can either be viewed from the water looking onto the natural areas or views from the shore down to the water. For example, the end of Cedar Drive (elevated location) offers exceptional views looking down to the river and bayou. In addition, various viewing locations exist throughout the park.
- **(S) Education Opportunities** - There are great opportunities for interpretive signage along the trails, the trail head, and the boating access site (where people congregate).
- **(S) Visitor Experience** - Except for the end of Cedar Drive, the scenic view locations are in areas of low visitor impact to provide an experience of solitude. At the end of Cedar Drive, more contact with other visitors can be expected. From this location, views onto Max Lake will be maintained.
- **(S) Management Focus** - Management must focus on maintenance of the views and protection of the natural resource.
- **(S) Development** - Any development in this zone must complement the viewing opportunities. Educational kiosks and improvements to augment educational opportunities are desirable actions. All development will meet the approval requirements of the planning process.

DEVELOPED RECREATION



Legend

- Developed Recreation
- BR_RA_Ownership_Boundary
- Dedicated Boundary

1,000 500 0 1,000 Meters



Comprised of 705 acres (42% of the park), the 'Developed Recreation' components of the park are mainly consolidated along Max Lake and Buddy's Pond. It includes areas that are highly modified from past gravel mining operations and have potential therefore for a wide range of developed recreation opportunities.

- **(D) Natural Resources** – In this zone, active recreation dominates, with natural resource attributes enhanced when possible. This area is not designated for natural resource significance.
- **(D) Historic/Cultural Resources** – There are no known cultural resources in this zone, but there is a potential for some to exist. All development that may impact potential resources should be cleared by PRD Stewardship Unit before proceeding.
- **(D) Recreation Opportunities** – A high level of recreation is the focus of this zone. Camping, picnicking, boating, fishing, trail use and general day-use activities are accommodated and encouraged. Future uses will be determined in subsequent planning stages. Currently, hunting is allowed within this zone.
- **(D) Education Opportunities** – Interpretive displays/kiosks can be located at the boat launch and designated parking areas to educate park visitors about the significant resources elsewhere in the park. The opportunity exists for an expanded educational focus in this zone, on the history of the park, the river and its importance, and wildlife and fisheries management. There are opportunities to partner with other organizations, such as Ducks Unlimited and others.
- **(D) Visitor Experience** – The visitor will experience a relatively high level of encounters with other park visitors during the summer months.
- **(D) Management Focus** – Provide educational opportunities in the zone for the entire park, develop/maintain 'Universal Access' in the zone, manage user conflicts, and maintain public safety and good hospitality practices.
- **(D) Development** – Provide 'Universal Access' improvements as needed to attain 'facility' and 'program' accessibility. Improve facilities to complement education. All development will meet the approval requirements of the planning process.

FUTURE PLAN INSERTS

10-Year Action Goals Plan (LONG-RANGE ACTION GOALS TO ATTAIN GMP) - Phase-2 of the Management Planning Process. Includes review and update of General Management Plan

5-Year Implementation Plan (SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT) - Phase-3 of the Management Planning Process. Includes review and update of General Management Plan and Phase 2 Plan

Annual Action Plan and Progress Report - Phase-4 of the Management Planning Process

Operational/Management Resources - The following categories are established as a guide for the park manager to use to supplement this working document. Other categories can be added as needed.

- Annual Work Plan (NOTE...this should tie-in with Phase 4 – Annual Report of Management Planning)
- Staffing plan
- Budget plan
- Equipment inventory and needs
- Training (required and desired)
- Public relations / marketing / outreach
- Programming (special events, MCCC activities, volunteers, etc.)
- Public health, safety and welfare
 - Water system
 - Wastewater system
 - Electrical system
 - Law enforcement
 - Emergency access plans
 - Wildfire management plan
 - Dam Safety reports
- CRS
- FOIA
- Raster Image Index
- Raster Images of historic park plans
- Park Infrastructure data
- Parcel mapping of land ownership
- Other...

SUPPORTING ANALYSIS

Park Setting

Location and surrounding community

Bass River Recreation Area is located within Ottawa County, a 565 square mile county located along the eastern shoreline of Lake Michigan. The largest river in Michigan, the Grand River, traverses the entire county before it enters Lake Michigan. The county is in the center of three vibrant metropolitan areas: Grand Rapids, Muskegon and Holland, the connection between them having strong influence on the county—a result of their geographic, economic and cultural relationship.



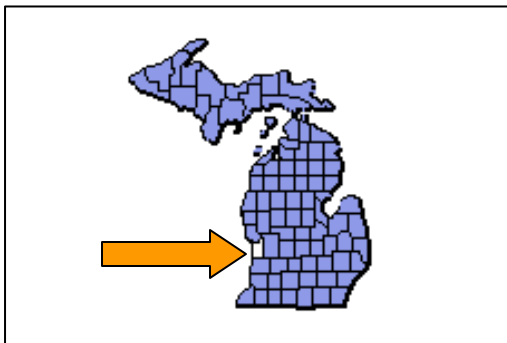
The recreation area itself is located along both the Grand River and Bass River in the center of Ottawa County, its boundaries resting in both Allendale and Robinson townships. The recreation area is directly located between Grand Haven and Grand Rapids.

When originally purchased the recreation area was approximately 1,115 acres. An additional 550 acres of land, a rather diverse parcel, was purchased afterwards and adjoined at the easterly boundary. This piece brought Bass River Recreation Area to its current acreage of 1,665 acres.

The area is easily accessible from M-45 and I-96, making it a popular destination for travelers. Abundant with natural resources, Bass River Recreation Area is primarily used for boating, hiking and biking, with equestrians and hunters also making use of the area. Its open meadows, brush lands and mature hardwood stands offer a diverse experience along the Grand River.

Demographics

In 2010, Ottawa County had a population of 263,801—a 10.7% increase from its population in 2000. The state of Michigan, in that 10 year period, experienced a 0.6% decrease in population. The county, which was once a wilderness full of wolves and black bears, was home to several early fur-trading posts, later to be replaced by lumbermen. The expanse of the lumber industry within Ottawa County cleared the way for farming and other settlements as the land transformed. In 1847 immigrants



from the Netherlands founded the community of Holland, the start to a rapidly changing culture.

Economic and employment statistics

Ottawa County's economy is diverse and growing steadily, the three largest industries being manufacturing, agriculture, and tourism. Within the county are approximately 800 manufacturing firms, including General Motors. Ottawa County leads the state in market value of agricultural products sold. Its prime location along the Lake Michigan shoreline, as well as its proximity to Grand Rapids, Chicago and Lansing make this county ideal for the tourism industry. This market is currently on the rise in Ottawa County, prompting a need for expanded recreational resources within the county. (Source: Michigan.org, miottawao.org: 2011 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan)

Government (Local Entities with Interest in Bass River RA)

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission	jscholtz@miottawa.org
Ottawa County Board of Commissioners	616-994-4531
Ottawa County Drain Commissioner	616-994-4530
Ottawa County Planning & Performance Improvement Department	616-738-4852
Ottawa County Park Planning & Development	cterhaar@miottawa.org
Nature Education Center	616-786-4847
Macatawa Greenway Partnership	616-396-5256
Friends of Ottawa County Parks	616-738-4810
West Michigan Tourist Association	800-442-2084
Grand Haven/ Spring Lake Area Visitors Bureau	616-842-4499
Michigan Recreation & Parks Association	517-485-9888
Michigan State University Cooperative Extension	616-994-4580
Great Lakes Information Network	734-971-9135
Outdoor Discovery Center	616-393-9453
Land Conservancy of West Michigan	616-451-9476
Allendale Charter Township	616-895-6295
Robinson Township	616-846-2210

Recreation Area History

Prior to state ownership, the area is used for hunting, fishing access, and extensive off-road-vehicle trail system. Several gravel mining companies also used the area, former owner Construction Aggregates conducted extensive mining operations. Once the mining halted, the property was acquired by Waste Management, Inc. for planned landfill purposes. Strong public opposition and the subsequent court action prohibited Waste Management, Inc. from moving forward, eventually leading to the State of Michigan obtaining ownership. Man made lake dates back to approximately 1975.

1994- Bass River Recreation Area is purchased.

1996- Recommendations are made for additional harbor development within Bass River RA. It is recommended that staff commence investigations to find

financial investors, potential harbor development sites, pursue a market study and begin preliminary engineering discussions.

1996- The Bakale property is nominated for consideration in the 1996 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund funding cycle by Mr. Timothy Bureau of Resource Management Group, Inc.

2002- May 13 see the approval of the purchase and acquisition of 550 acres—the Bakale Property. Property includes 1 ¾ miles of Grand River frontage, 2,400 feet of Bass River frontage. The land adjoins the existing Recreation Area at its easterly boundary.

Historic/Cultural Resources

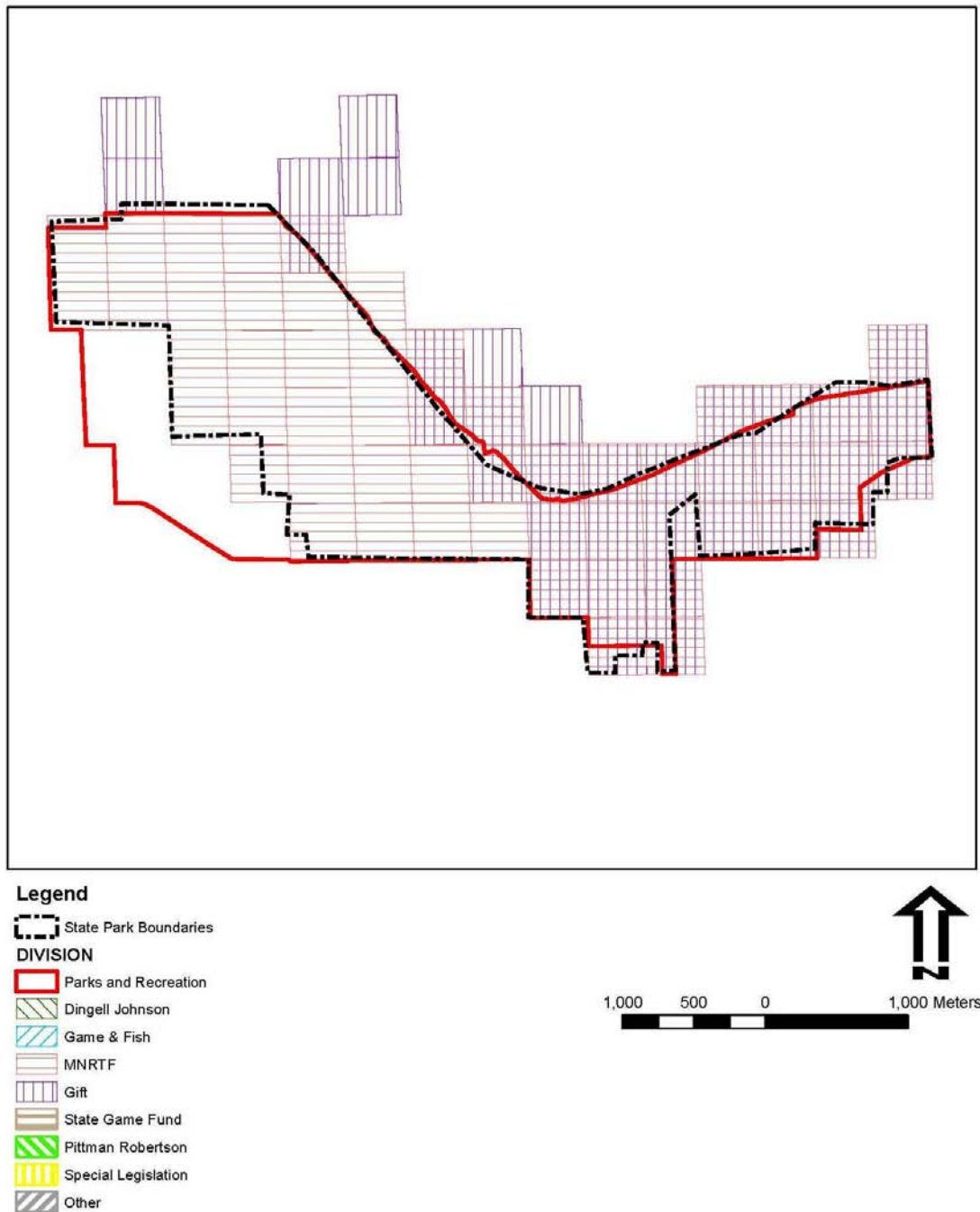
A map drawn by Russell Lowing in 1918 of the Bass River area identifies several structures of the time. Approximately 50 feet from the river (near the northwest portion of what is now BRRA) was John VanHuisen's farm. Several other structures are indicated on the map, following a straight path parallel to the river: the Evergreen Resort, the homes of Molyneaux, Probst and VerPlank, a church, a white store and a post office. Several other farms, a school, and a farm later converted to a boarding house are all identified on Lowing's map. (Source: Bass River Park History Files)

A large portion of what became BRRA was surveyed by Richard Flanders in 1981, with no findings.

Nearby historic structures and resources:

- Grand Rapids, Grand Haven, and Muskegon Railway Depot
 - Historically used for rail transportation, currently used as a museum for recreation and culture. The site was the last electric interurban line in Michigan to operate outside of receivership, and functioned with the unique dual purpose of passenger depot and electric substation.
- Knowlton, Hiram B., House
 - Historically used as a domestic/single dwelling, currently used as a museum for recreation and culture. The house was constructed by civil war veteran Hiram B. Knowlton in 1911. Knowlton served in the war from 1862-4, fought several battles and was twice a prisoner of war.
- Grand River Greenway
 - With approximately 28 miles of undeveloped, natural river corridor meandering through Ottawa County, one of the fastest growing areas in Michigan, protection for the county's natural features becomes important. The development of a greenway along the Grand River offers protection for its floodplains, wetlands and marshes, larger tracts of forests and its steep ravines. An advisory group was formed in 1995 to study the feasibility of establishing a greenway for the Grand River.

Land Ownership and Issues



- Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund - The MNRTF has funded 1,115 acres of the Bass River Recreation Area. The MNRTF has provided financial assistance to protect natural resources and open space, purchase lands for outdoor recreation, and acquire land for its environmental importance or scenic beauty. The Fund's Board of Trustees and the Grants Administration Division of the DNR administer the program. Only state and local governments may apply to the fund to

acquire property. Annual revenue from oil, gas, and mineral leasing supports the fund.

There are eleven evaluation criteria for grant funding: the protection and use of significant natural resources, use of inland waters, population served, economic benefits, hunting, fishing and other wildlife-related values, need for proposal, capability of applicant, site and project quality, special initiatives of the Fund board, financial need of the applicant, and local match contribution. Development projects have a minimum grant amount of \$15,000 and a maximum of \$500,000. There is neither a minimum nor a maximum amount on land acquisition grants. Since 1976, the Fund has purchased more than 135,000 acres of land in Michigan.

(Source: The Trust for Public Land (www.tpl.org/))

- **Multiple Funding Sources** - Combined with Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund dollars, local governmental units, private citizens, and various wildlife constituencies have supported the subsequent acquisition of 550 acres for the recreation area. The monetary contributions came from Duck's Unlimited (\$50,000), Michigan Duck Hunter's Association (\$10,000), and Macatawa Bay Waterfowl Association (\$25,000). These generous pledges were given with a general understanding that the 550 acre addition to the Bass River RA would be managed to sustain and even promote hunting opportunities along the Grand River in Ottawa County.

Ottawa County has also purchased some land parcels along the Grand River as part of their Grand River Greenway Plan, which compliments the existing state-owned land.

Easements

Given that the majority of this property lies within a floodplain, no utilities or old road corridors exist. There are no easements listed for the recreation area at this time.

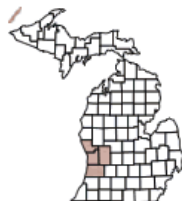
Relationship of Bass River to Other State Recreation Resources



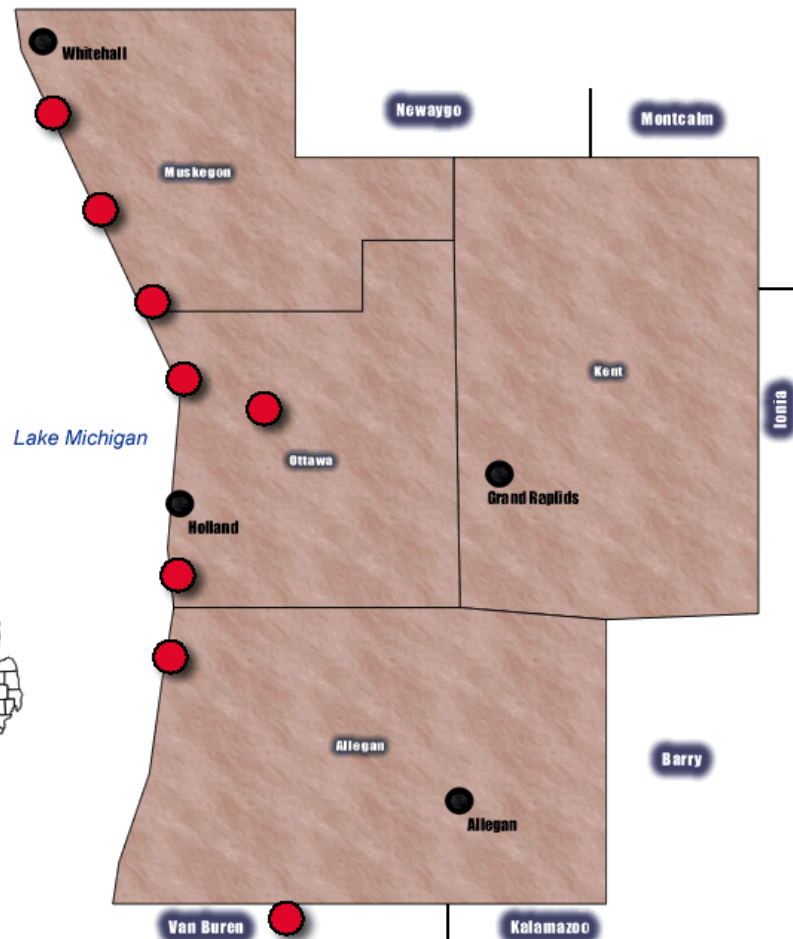
Ottawa County

-  State Park
-  State Forest Campground
-  Forest Pathway

-  City or Town



[Back to the Map](#)



Nearby State Parks:

- Duck Lake State Park
- Muskegon State Park
- Hoffmaster State Park
- Grand Haven State Park
- Holland State Park
- Saugatauk Dunes State Park
- Kal-Haven Trail State Park

Relationship of BRRA to other local recreation resources

Bass River Recreation Area is ideally located on the Western edge of the state, with ample recreation opportunities close by. The following list of opportunities is composed of recreation within Ottawa County and its surrounding towns.

Nearby Arts & Entertainment

- Urban Institute for Contemporary Art
- Holland Area Arts Council
- Allendale Civic Theatre
- Paint a Pot
- Hope Summer Repertory Theatre
- Public Museum of Grand Rapids
- DeVos Performance Hall
- Wealthy Theatre
- Mojo's Dueling Piano Bar & Restaurant
- Grand Rapids Art Museum
- Intersection
- Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

Nearby Sports & Adventure

- Michigan's Adventure
- Aim Fitness Adventure Sports & Wellness Center
- West Michigan Outdoor Adventure
- Dutch Village
- Soccer Zone
- Holland Water Sports
- Grand Rapids Golf & Country Club
- Tab's Sport Fishing Charters
- Norton Pines Tennis & Fitness
- Pando Winter Sports Park
- Carpe Diem Volleyball
- South Kent Sportsman Club
- Thousand Oaks Golf Club

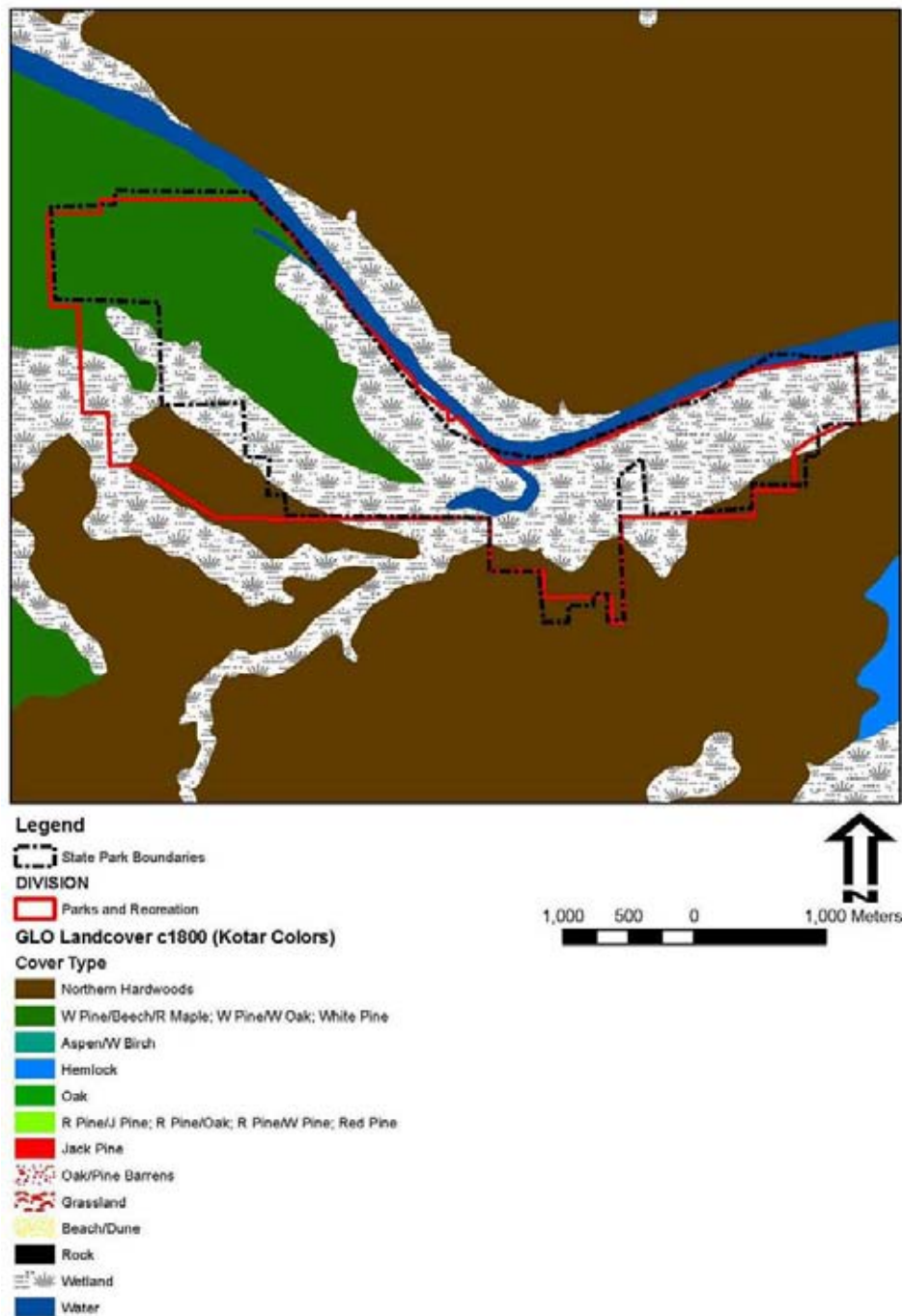
Nearby Shopping & Restaurants

- River Town Crossings
- New Holland Brewing
- Z's Bar & Restaurant
- Jersey Junction
- Salt & Pepper Savory Grill & Pub
- Piper Restaurant

Land use

The area now occupied by Bass River Recreation Area was once covered by White Pine, Beech, Red Maple, and White Oak Forest and expansive wetlands. Northern Hardwood forests dominated the land surround the current park. From the map below, there is a clear difference in the river running through this area in comparison to the 2006 map (shown below). Circa 1800, the river here appears less wide, with a small lake branching from its bend. Later this river expands into current park boundaries, creating a lake-like limb from the river body.

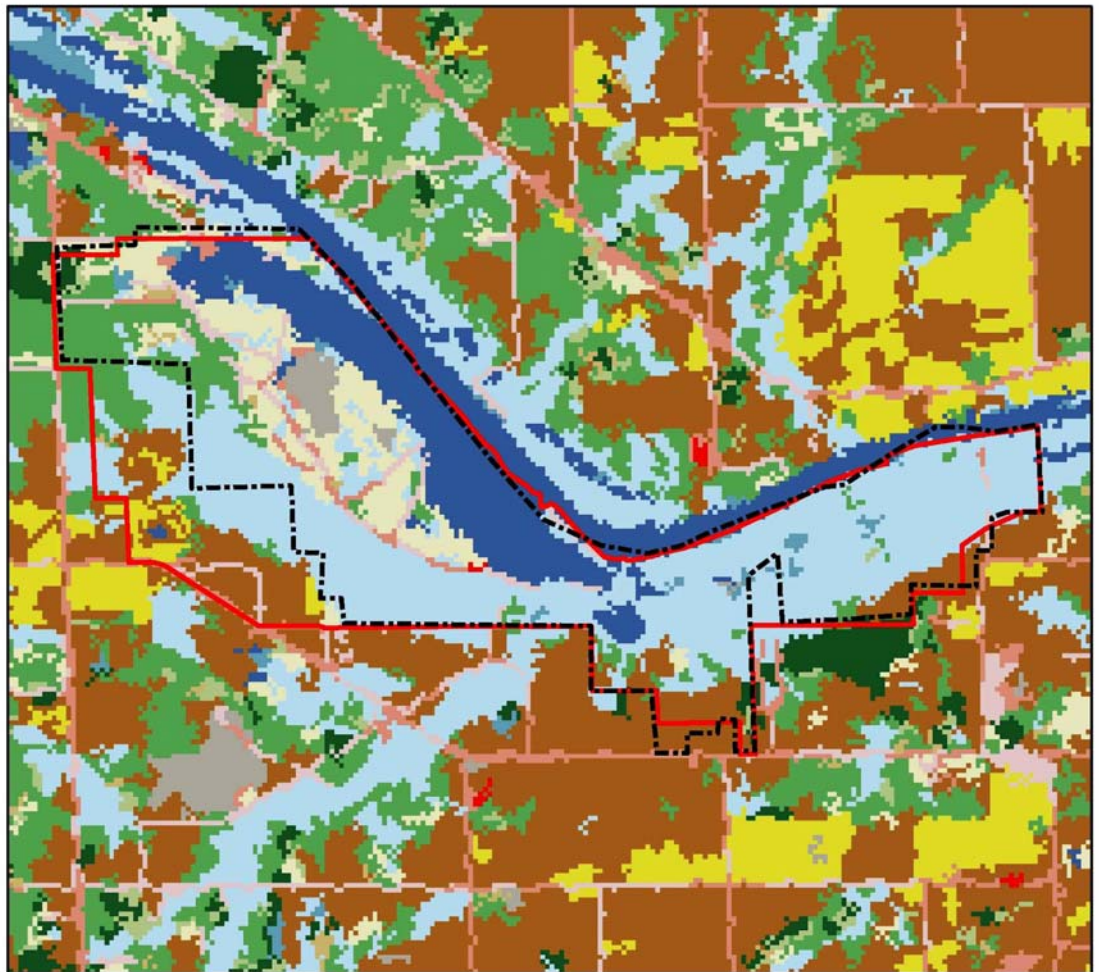
Land Use Circa 1800



Presently, Bass River RA is an undeveloped tract of land; however it is currently used by a number of user groups. The trail system, which is mainly both single-tracks and old two-tracks, is frequently used by hikers, bikers, and equestrian users. Hunting is very popular, primarily on the eastern 550 acres, and fishing is also popular on the Grand River, Max Lake and Buddy's Pond. A local water skiing group signs a use permit each year to water ski on Buddy's Pond. At one time, Waste Management Inc. sought to put a landfill in at the Gravel Pits, but

their efforts failed. Several old monitoring wells exist and an old clay cell/waste disposal system exists within the park.


2006 Land Use




Legend


 State Park Boundaries


DIVISION

 Parks and Recreation

 Open Water

 Developed, Open Space

 Developed, Low Intensity

 Developed, Medium Intensity

 Developed, High Intensity

 Barren Land


 Deciduous Forest


 Coniferous Forest


 Mixed Forest


 Shrub/Scrub

 Herbaceous

 Hay/Pasture

 Cultivated Crops

 Woody Wetlands

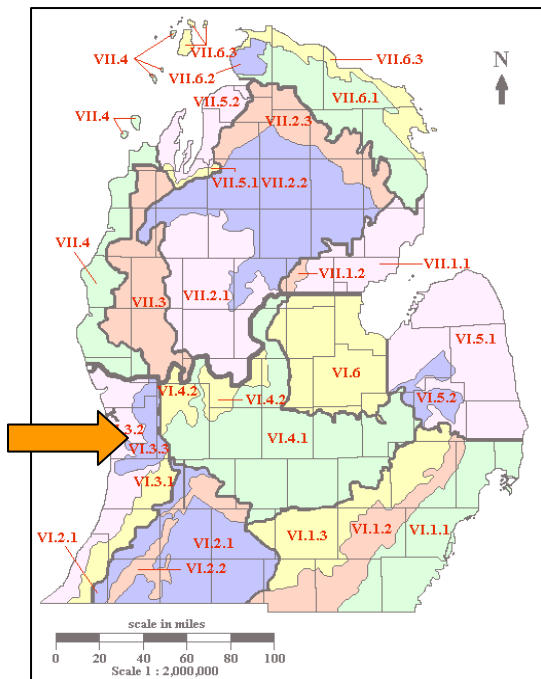
 Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands

1,000 500 0 1,000 Meters



As of 2006, the majority of land occupied by Bass River Recreation Area is categorized as woody wetlands. Some low density development has been created along the river, along with herbaceous lands, mixed in with a smaller portion of barren land. Small patches of deciduous forest and coniferous forest exist on the outer edges of the park boundaries. Surrounding the park, land is majorly cultivated crops and deciduous and coniferous forest land. Very small patches of medium density development are visible, as well as pasture lands and additional woody wetland systems.

Ecoregional Context VI.3.2 Southern Lake Michigan Lake Plain



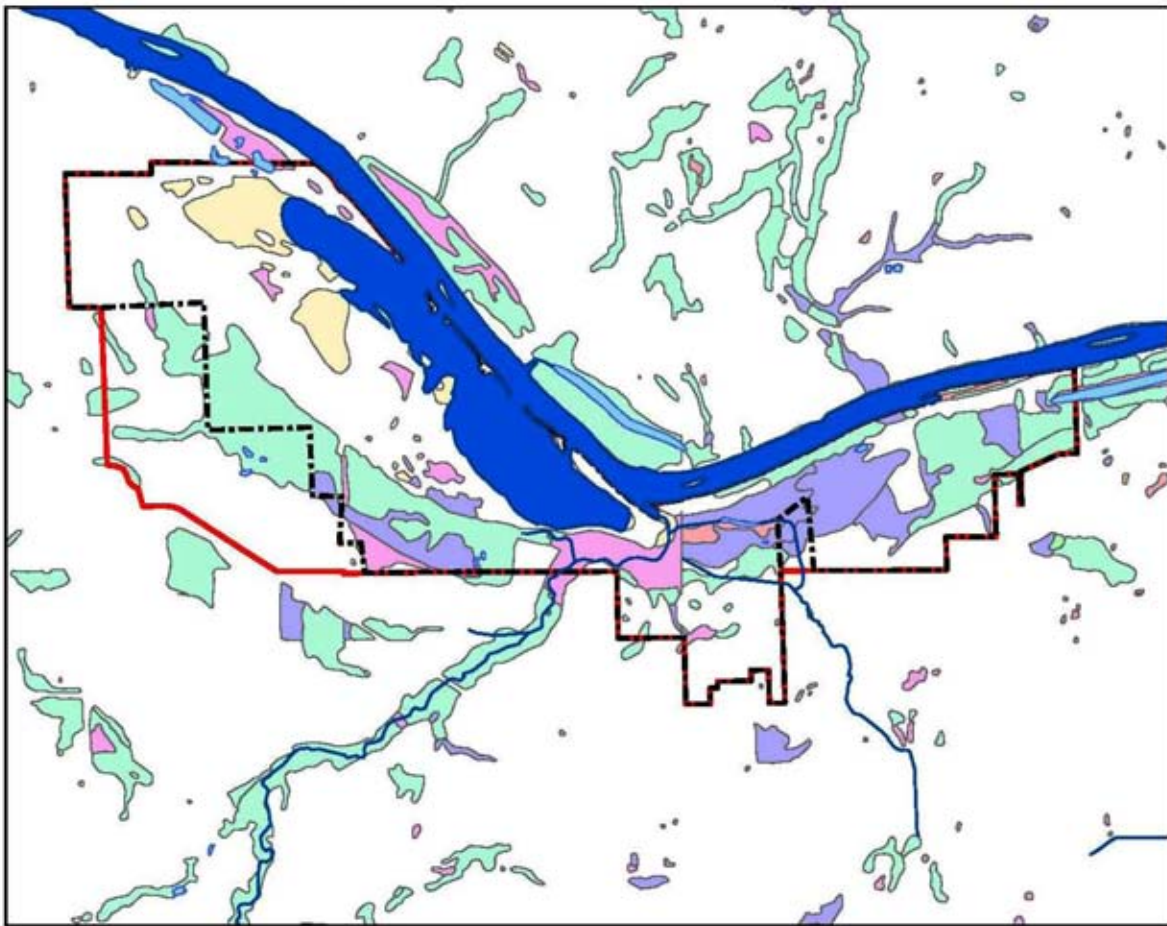
The sub-subsection in which Bass River RA lies ranges in elevation from 580 to 820 feet (177 to 250 m). It consists of primarily lacustrine deposits, with some fine-textured end and ground moraines. Much of the land has been reworked by water; there is a narrow band of steep sand dunes along the Lake Michigan shoreline in this sub-subsection. (Source: *Regional Landscape Ecosystems of Michigan*. Pg 115)

Water Resources

Bass River Recreation Area, with its location not far from the shores of Lake Michigan, has its own unique set of water resources. The recreation area offers 3 miles of river frontage along the Grand and Bass Rivers. Small lakes are situated near and within the recreation area boundaries,

located within the wetland systems that exist here. Dominant wetlands that are present within this area are forested and emergent, giving the area a natural, unique identity. Water levels in lakes here greatly fluctuate, resulting in disjunctive flora along lake margins. The map below illustrates the water resources within the recreation area in more detail.

Wetlands



Legend

- River_Lines
- River_Polys
- Lake_polygons_200403
- - - BR_RA_Ownership_Boundary
- BR_RA_Dedicated_Boundary

OTTAWA_NWI_24K

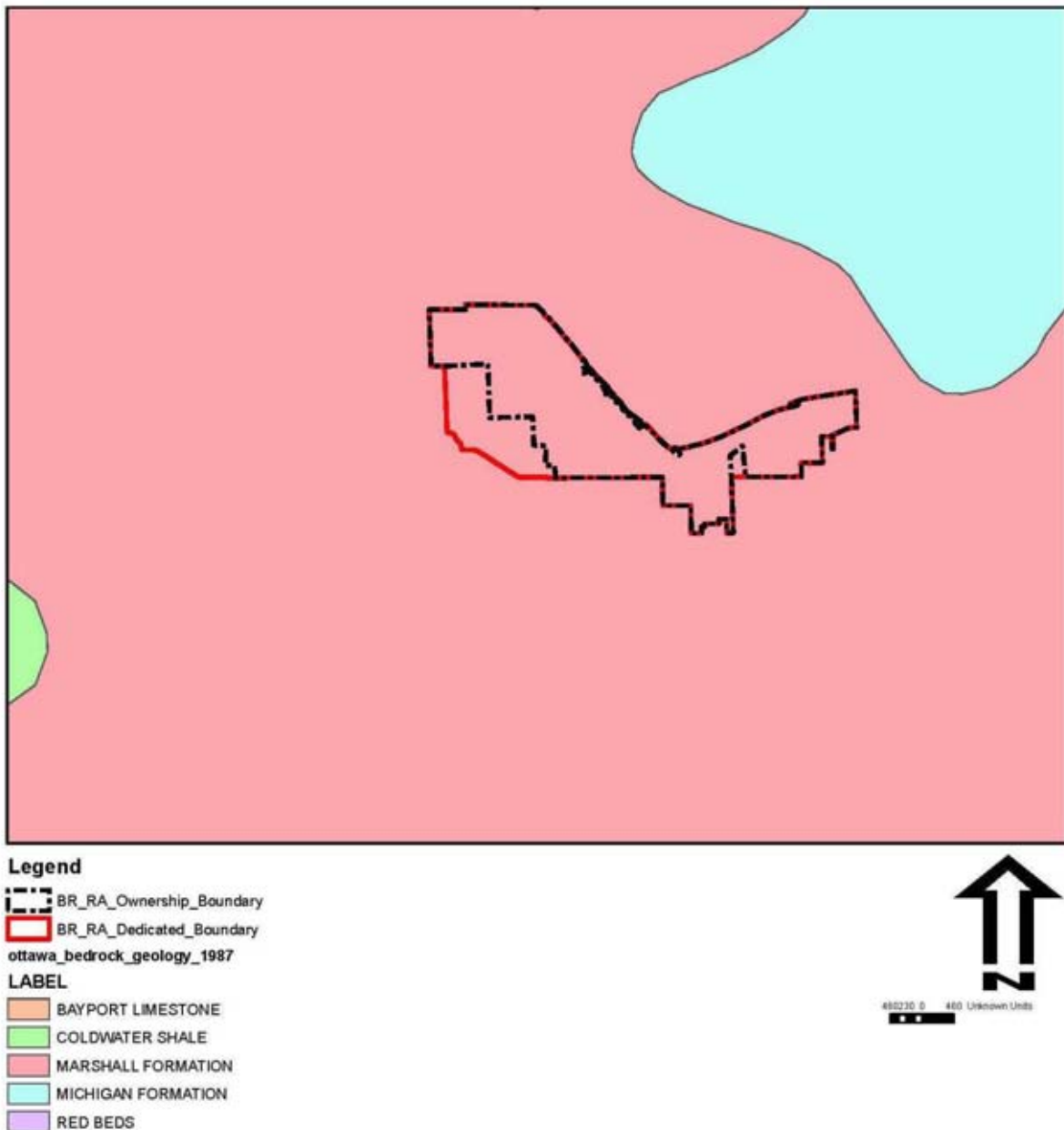
CLASS

- Aquatic Bed
- Emergent
- Forested
- Open Water/Unknown Bottom
- Scrub-Shrub
- Unconsolidated Bottom
- Unconsolidated Shore

Climate

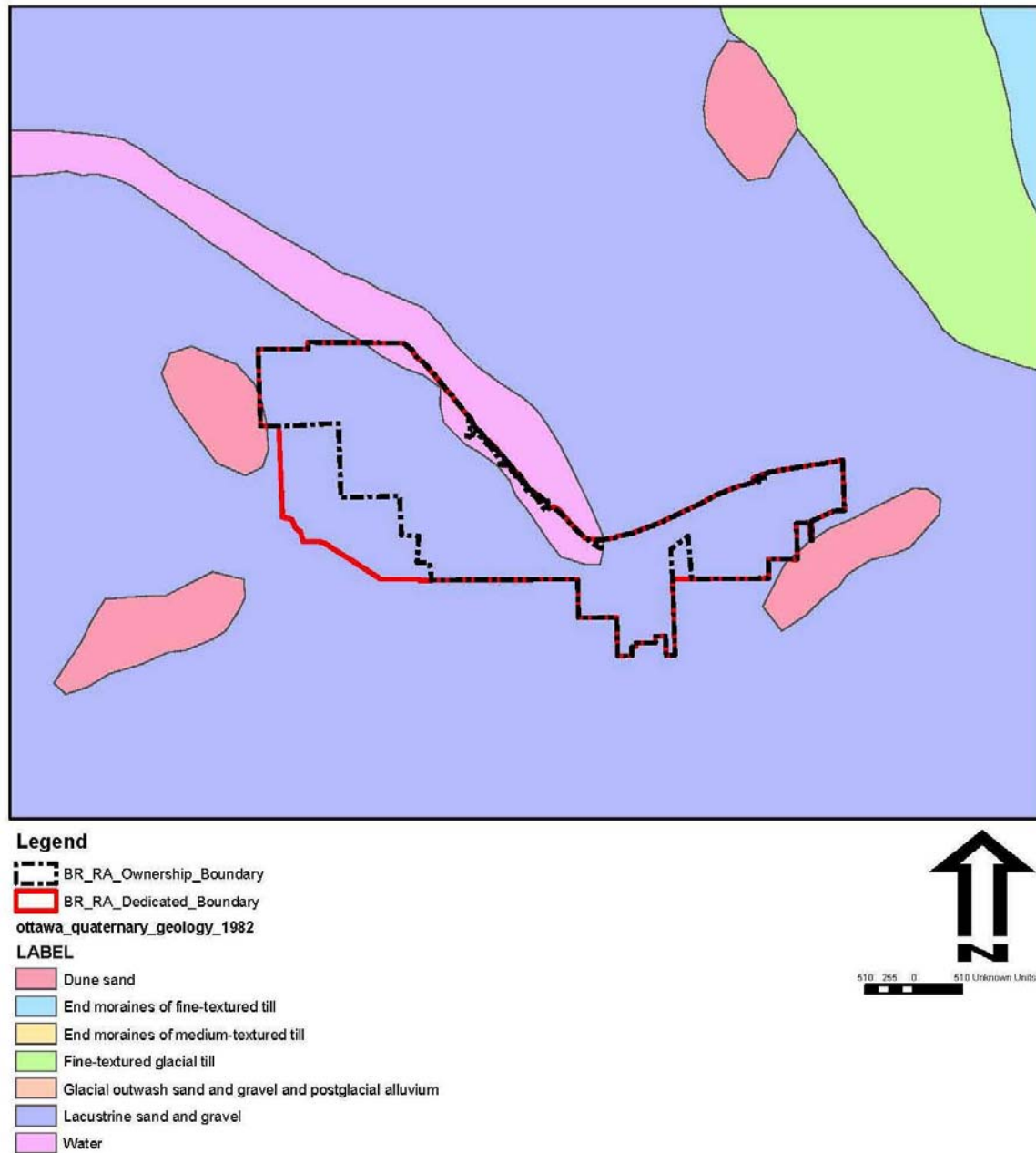
Growing season here ranges from 150 days to 170 days. Annual precipitation averages between 32 and 38 inches, snowfall ranging between 70 and 100 inches. Some changes to these ranges are caused by the lake-effect. Temperature extreme minimums can reach -22 degrees Fahrenheit.

Geology



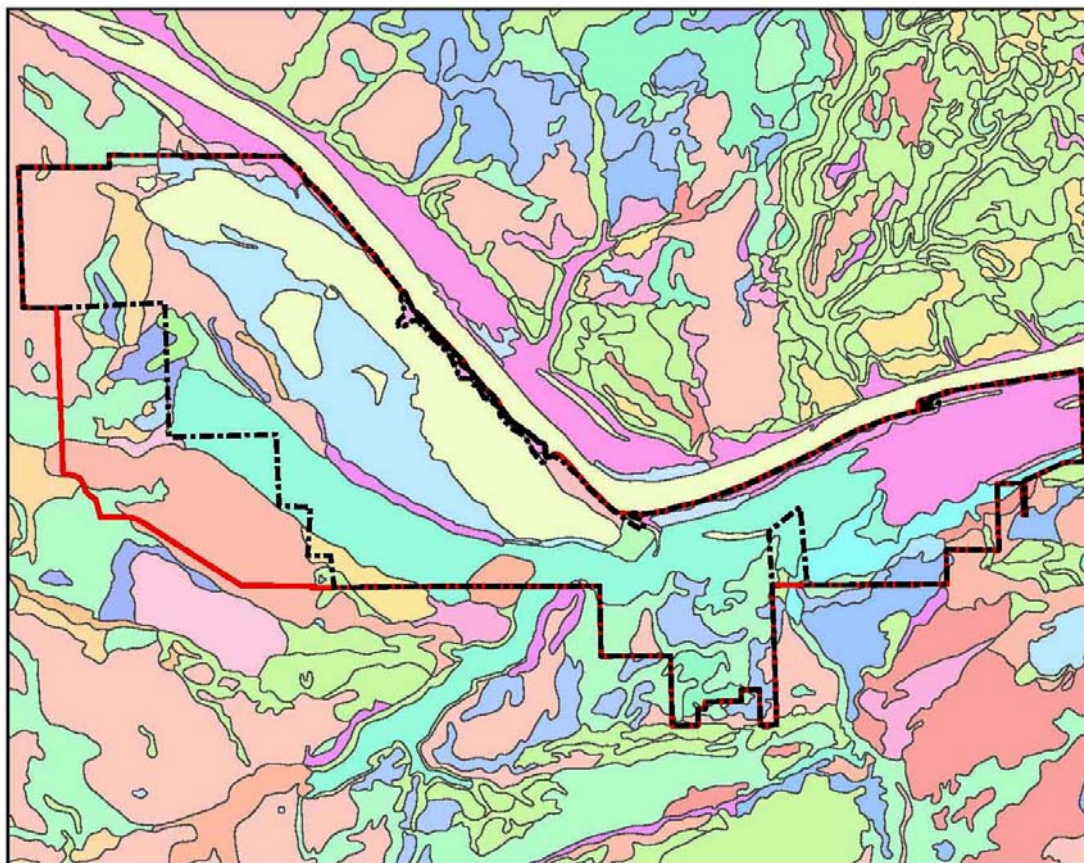
Bass River RA lies within the Marshall Formation, formed during the close of the Early Mississippian time. Throughout this, much of southern Michigan became a near-shore, beach zone as gray, pink and red sandstones and siltstones were carried in as the seas receded. The Formation is composed of mainly Marshall Sandstone and Napoleon Sandstones. Near the park, Coldwater Shale and the Michigan Formation are present. (Source: Dorr, John Adam & Donald F. Eschman. *Geology of Michigan*. Pg 125)

Glacial Geology



The area occupied by Bass River Recreation Area is dominantly lacustrine sand and gravel, as seen in the image above. Small patches of dune sand are visible in the land surrounding the area, some of which touch the boundary line on the East and West ends.

Soils



Legend
ottawa_ssurgo_soils
<all other values>

MUSYM

Ad
Ah
Ak
AlA
AmB
ArB
BeB
Cc
Ce
ChB
CrB
CwB
DpD
DpF
Gl
Gm
Gn
Gr
KaC
Ma
McB
RsB
RsD
SeA
SeB
Sn
SoD
W

1,000 500 0 1,000 Unknown Units

Ad	Adrian Muck	
Ah	Adrian-Houghton Mucks	
Ak	Algansee loamy sand	
AlA	Allendale sandy loam	0-4 % slopes
AmB	Au Gres loamy sand	0-6 % slopes
ArB	Au Gres loamy sand, loamy substratum	0-6 % slopes
BeB	Belding sandy loam	2-6 % slopes
Cc	Carlisle Muck	
Ce	Ceresco loam	
ChB	Chelsea loamy sand	0-6 % slopes
CrB	Croswell sand	0-6 % slopes
CwB	Croswell and Au Gres sands	0-6 % slopes
DpD	Deer Park sand	0-6 % slopes
DpF	Deer Park sand	18-45% slopes
Gl	Glendora sandy loam	
Gm	Granby loamy sand	
Gn	Granby fine sandy loam	
Gr	Gravel pits	
KaC	Kalkaska sand	0-12 % slopes
Ma	Made Land	
McB	Mancelona loamy sand	2-6 % slopes
RsB	Rubicon sand	0-6 % slopes
RsD	Rubicon sand	6-18 % slopes
SeA	Selkirk loam	0-2 % slopes
SeB	Selkirk loam	2-6 % slopes
Sn	Sloan loam	
SsD	Spinks and Montcalm loamy sands	12-18% slopes
W	Water	

(Source: Image generated via GIS, Table generated from Soil Data Mart)

Flora and fauna

Rare Plant Communities: Many marshes of the wet-prairies in this sub-subsection are very distinct, and rich in disjunct species from the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains.

Rare Plants:

- *Carex platyphylla* (Broad-leaved Sedge)
- *Cirsium pitcheri* (Pitcher's Thistle)
- *Echinodorus tenellus* (Dwarf Burhead)
- *Eleocharis melanocarpa* (Black-Fruited Spike-Rush)
- *Eleocharis tricostata* (Three-Ribbed Spike Rush)
- *Hibiscus moscheutos* (Swamp Rose-Mallow)
- *Juncus biflorus* (Two-Flowered Rush)
- *Juncus scirpoides* (Scirpus-like Rush)
- *Lycopodium appressum* (Appressed Bog Clubmoss)
- *Orobanche fasciculata* (Fascicled Broom-Rape_



- *Panicum longifolium* (Long-Leaved Panic-Grass)
- *Potamogeton bicupulatus* (Waterthread Pondweed)
- *Pycnanthemum verticillatum* (Whorled Mountain Mint)
- *Rhexia mariana* var. *mariana* (Maryland Meadow-Beauty)
- *Rhexia virginica* (Meadow-Beauty)
- *Sabatia angularis* (Rose-Pink)
- *Scirpus hallii* (Hall's bulrush)
- *Scleria reticularis* (Netted Nut-rush)
- *Sisyrinchium atlanticum* (Atlantic Blue-Eyed Grass)
- *Utricularia subulata* (Zigzag Bladderwort)

Rare Animals:

- *Chlidonias niger* (Black Tern)
- *Clonophis kirtlandii* (Kirtland's Snake)
- *Dendroica cerulea* (Cerulean Warbler)
- *Dendroica discolor* (Prairie Warbler)
- *Dendroica dominica* (Yellow-throated Warbler)
- *Hesperia ottoe* (Ottoe Skipper)
- *Incisalia irus* (Frosted Elfin)
- *Lanius ludovicianus* (Loggerhead Shrike)
- *Lycaeides Melissa samuelis* (Karner Blue)
- *Microtus ochrogaster* (Prairie Vole)



(Source: *Regional Landscape Ecosystems of Michigan*, pg. 117)

Natural Areas

There are several identified natural areas that lay within sub-subsection VI.3.2, thus placing them in relative proximity to Bass River Recreation Area. The list below identifies these areas:

State Natural Areas: Crooked Lake Marsh (Allegan State Game Area), Saugatuck

State Nature Study Areas: Warren Woods, Warren Dunes

Michigan Nature Association Preserves: Five Lakes, Wade Memorial, Barvicks Sand Dunes, Pepperidge Dunes, Beck Memorial

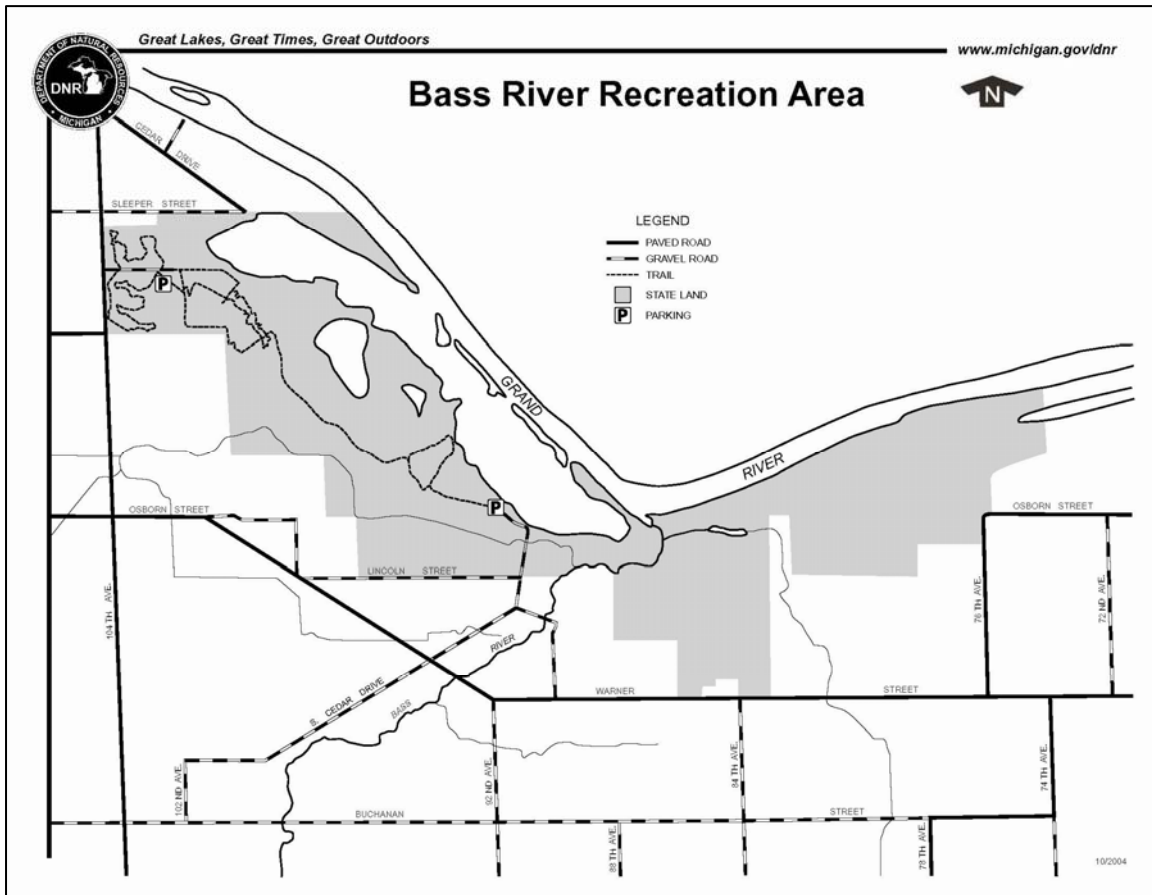
The Nature Conservancy Preserves: Grand Beach, Ross, Hofma, Robinson

Other Nature Areas: Sarrett Nature Center, Fernwood Nature Study Area

(Source: *Regional Landscape Ecosystems of Michigan*, pg. 117)

Recreational Resources within BRRA

Bass River RA provides hunting/trapping, boating, fishing, hiking, biking, equestrian, and other outdoor recreational activity. The picturesque views of the waterfront along the Grand River provides for excellent nature viewing. The Public Boat Access Site, while unimproved, allows visitors a chance to fish Max Lake, Bass River, and Grand River for their numerous species of fish. In the winter, cross-country skiers utilize the existing trail system and gravel pits.



Education/Interpretation/Visitor Services

No structures exist within the park, and up until about a year ago, no way to get into the heart of the park without use of mountain bike or walking, etc. This presents a great opportunity for the future planning of the recreation area.

Areas of Conflict

Coastal plain marshes within this area are home to threatened and endangered species in Michigan, many in some of the highest concentrations. Wetlands in these areas are at constant risk from residential development, dredging and off-road vehicle use.

Park Use Statistics and Economic Impacts 2010

PARK USE – Bass River RA is within one hour's drive of greater metropolitan Grand Rapids and Muskegon. As an undeveloped recreation area, it attracted 29,304 visitors in 2010. These visitors primarily engaged in trail use (mountain bike and equestrian), boating, fishing, and hunting.

Characterization of park use is described as follows: (based on MDNR-Park Attendance Statistics)

- **Summer Season-** At Bass River RA, the summer use season is defined as the two month period of July to August, when the weather is typically the

warmest. In 2010 this was the busiest season at Bass River RA. During this season, 40% of day-users were present.

- Fall Use Season- The fall season is defined by the months of September and October. 16 % of all day-use occurred within this season. In 2010, day-use declined significantly from October to November.
- Winter Use Season- November through April sees a decrease in day-use and at Bass River RA. While day-use percentages rise to 23% in 2010, use per month is down during these months.
- Spring Use Season- May and June show an increase in park attendance from winter use. Day-use rises to 21%. There is a drastic increase in use from April into May, and use continually increases towards the end of May into June as the weather warms. In 2010, day-use was approximately 1600 in April, jumping to nearly 3000 in May.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS- Michigan State University (Dr. Dan Stynes) developed an economic analysis model known as “MGM2”. This model is an update of the MGM model developed by Dr. Ken Hornback for the National Park System in 1995. The purpose of the updated MGM2 model is to estimate the impact of park visitor spending on the local economy. These economic impacts are reflected in terms of sales, income, employment, and value added.

This analysis tool, like others, relies on three primary factors in the common equation:

Economic Impact of Tourism Spending = Number of Tourists (x)
Average Spending per Visitor (x) Multiplier (to estimate extended effects of direct spending).

For our purposes of conducting a very basic review of impacts, we have utilized the “MGM2-Short Form” version of the program, which simplifies the extent of analysis required for input, and utilizes more generalized multipliers for spending outputs. For the non-economist, this provides an excellent tool for this desired baseline assessment of the economic impacts of our parks.

Because Bass River RA is an unimproved park, the economic impacts to the local community are modest. Following are the relative economic impacts (based on 2010 data) of Bass River RA to the economy of Ottawa County:

DIRECT ECONOMIC EFFECTS TO THE COMMUNITY-(all from Day-Use activity...no camping revenues at this park)

- Direct spending attributable to Bass River RA visitors totaled \$314,000.
- Jobs totaled 10. (Note...jobs are not full-time equivalent. They include part-time and seasonal positions.)
- Personal Income total is \$107,000.
- Value added (total income plus business taxes) totaled \$161,000.

TOTAL ECONOMIC EFFECTS TO THE COMMUNITY- (NOTE...this reflects 'Direct Effects' plus the 'Secondary Effects' of visitor spending on the local economy. Secondary Effects (sometimes called 'Multiplier Effects') capture economic activity that results from the re-circulation of money spent by the park visitors in the community.

- Total spending = \$415,000 (32% over direct spending)
- Jobs = 12 (20% over direct job impacts)
- Personal Income = \$140,000 (31% over direct spending)
- Value added = \$223,000 (39% over direct value added)

NOTE: For purposes of updating economic values, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is often used to adjust values over time. The following site, <http://www.bls.gov/home.htm> has a CPI Inflation Calculator located in the category of "Inflation and Consumer Spending".

Stakeholders

Michigan Mountain Bikers Association
 Ottawa County Trail Riders
 Grand City Show Skiers
 West Shore Water Ski Club
 Thunderhoofs 4H Club

PLANNING OVERVIEW

Meetings:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ▪ September 12, 2006 | Start-up Planning Team Meeting |
| ▪ June 12, 2007 | Follow-up Planning Team Meeting |
| ▪ July 28, 2010 | Stakeholder and Public Input Meeting |

Plan Reviews:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| • February 16, 2011 | PRD – Management Team (advice of change) |
| • December 12, 2011 | PRD - Section Chiefs (revised zone designation) |
| • December 20, 2011 | SLP – Ecoteam |
| • January 17, 2012 | DNR - Statewide Council |
| • February 9, 2012 | Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee |



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

August 18, 2004

TO: Rebecca A. Humphries, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
Re: Bass River Recreation Area, Bakale Property

General:

This MOU is between the Parks and Recreation Bureau (PRB) and the Wildlife Division (WD), and concerns the management and operation of the Bakale Property in the Bass River Recreation Area.

On May 13, 2002, the Director of the DNR approved the purchase and acquisition of 550 acres, to be known as the Bakale Property. The property includes part of Sections 8, 9 and 17, further described as T7N, R14W – Ottawa County. The property includes 1 ¾ miles of water frontage along the Grand River and 2,400 feet of water frontage along the Bass River. The Bakale Property adjoins the easterly boundary of 1,115 acres of state-owned land purchased in 1994 which is now administered as the Bass River Recreation Area.

The Bakale Property is located in Ottawa County, and is currently administered by two separate units, (PRB and WD) within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The Bass River Recreation Area currently provides for common wetland management, outdoor education and wildlife related recreational opportunities to the visiting public which is expected to continue. Therefore it is mutually agreed by, and between PRB and WD that the management and operation of the Bakale Property shall be conducted as follows:

Parks and Recreation Bureau Responsibilities:

1. Maintain two(2) property access points, including securing gates, lawn care, and refuse disposal.

2. Enforce all DNR rules and regulations related to the use of the public lands within the Bakale Property in coordination with WD and cooperation from Law Enforcement Division (LED).
3. Assist WD with the development and continued maintenance of their respective resource management programs.

Wildlife Division Responsibilities:

1. Provide nesting, brood rearing, and migrational habitat for native and waterfowl species.
2. Provide recreational hunting opportunities.
3. Work with PRB to provide opportunities for nature study, foot access, fishing, and boating.
4. In cooperation with PRB select parking areas accessing the Bakale Property and then build and maintain.
5. Post the Bakale Property restricting non-compatible property uses.

Recommendations:

1. That the administrative jurisdiction of the state-owned lands known as the Bakale Property be assigned jointly to PRB and WD.
2. That the management for those state-owned lands located within the approved boundary for the Bakale Property be administered as outlined in this memorandum.

This item appeared on the _____, 2004 calendar and was eligible for approval on _____, 2004.

Lowen Schuett, Acting Chief
Parks and Recreation Bureau

William Moritz, Acting Chief
Wildlife Division

I approve the staff recommendations.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

Date Approved



Michigan Department of Natural Resources

RECEIVED

JUL 28 2008

Cheboygan Mgmt. Unit

LEASE

BETWEEN

THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, AS LESSOR

AND

OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, AS LESSEE

This Lease is entered into by the State of Michigan through its **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**, hereinafter called "DNR" and/or "Lessor," and **Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission**, hereinafter called "Lessee," whose address is 12220 Fillmore Street, West Olive, MI 49460.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 503(1) of Public Act 451 of 1994 (1994 PA 451), as amended, MCL 324.503(1), the DNR is required to: protect and conserve the natural resources of the State; provide and develop facilities for outdoor recreation; prevent the destruction of timber and other forest growth by fire or otherwise; promote the reforestation of forest lands belonging to the State; prevent and guard against the pollution of lakes and streams within the State and enforce all laws provided for that purpose with all authority granted by law; and foster and encourage the protection and propagation of game and fish.

WHEREAS, the Purpose of this Lease is to allow Lessee to develop and maintain a pedestrian path upon a designated portion of State Lands. The DNR feels the leased parcel of land has a more natural connection to the adjacent Riverside Park than it does to Bass River Recreation Area. Therefore, the DNR has determined the County is best suited to develop and maintain this parcel of land.

WHEREAS, the Director of the DNR, or his or her lawful designated Representative, has determined that the purpose of this Lease is necessary to implement Part 5 of 1994 PA 451, as amended, because development and maintenance of a pedestrian path upon a designated portion of State lands will help protect and conserve the natural resources and provide facilities for outdoor recreation.

WHEREAS, Lessee is willing to develop and maintain a pedestrian path upon a designated portion of State Lands, which are located within the Bass River Recreation Area, in Robinson Township of Ottawa County.

____ INIT

THEREFORE, Lessor and Lessee, for consideration specified in this Lease, agree to the following terms and conditions:

1. DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES - Lessor hereby leases to Lessee the Premises, described as:

- Commencing just west of the corner intersection of Cedar Street and Sleeper Street. Continue in an easterly direction, which follows the centerline of Sleeper Street. Once you reach the Grand River shoreline, continue in a SE direction to where the land comes to a point. Then continue along the bayou shoreline in a NW direction back to the northerly border line, which parallels Sleeper Street.
(see **Attachment B**)
- Five (5) feet buffer area, on either side of the constructed pathway.
(Buffer area is to allow for maintenance of the constructed infrastructure.)

Including land owned by the State of Michigan and/or the DNR that is located within the Bass River Recreation Area, County of Ottawa, State of Michigan.

This Lease is subject to the DNR's public notice process.

2. USE OF PREMISES

- A. Lessee hereby acknowledges that the use and occupancy of the Premises shall be subject to the provisions of 1994 PA 451, as amended, and confined to the following specific uses:
- 1) To facilitate the development and improvement of a pedestrian pathway, as detailed on **Attachment A**, including excavation, trail construction, invasive plants control, and signage. Any tree or woody vegetation to be removed must be approved on site by DNR Representative.
 - 2) Trail location must be staked by the Lessee and approved by the DNR Representative prior to the start of any construction and must be kept away from the wetland margin.
 - 3) Any other use which is agreed to in writing by both parties.
- B. Lessee shall obtain Lessor's prior consent, in writing, signed by the DNR Representative, to use the Premises for any purpose not listed in this Section. Lessor may terminate this Lease, as provided in Section 23A(3), if at any time, Lessee uses the Premises, without express written permission by Lessor, for purposes other than those enumerated in this Section.
- C. **PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES** - The following activities on the Premises are prohibited:
- 1) Authorizing public use of Premises in violation of any State law, order or regulation.
 - 2) Use of non-native species in any re-vegetation effort on the Premises.

____ INIT

- 3) Storage of equipment, placement of signs, or use of camping trailers or tents without prior written approval of the DNR Representative. All supplies and equipment must be stored safely and inside.
 - 4) Any clearing activity outside the Premises.
 - 5) Dumping or disposal of garbage/trash, spare parts, hazardous material, scrap metal and other waste onto the Premises.
 - 6) Disposal of trees, tree tops, branches, roots, stumps, and other vegetative debris onto the Premises.
 - 7) Authorization of "Naming Rights" for any portion of the Premises without prior Department approval.
- D. Lessor may terminate this Lease, as provided in Section 23A(3), if prohibited activities occur on the Premises at any time during the term of this Lease.
3. **WASTE** - Lessee agrees not to commit, or allow to be committed, any waste or nuisance on the Premises and will not use, or permit to be used, the Premises for any unlawful purpose.
 4. **LESSOR'S OPERATIONS** - Lessee covenants that its use of the Premises shall, at no time, interfere with the uses or operations of Lessor or the Public on the Premises. Lessee covenants that its use of the Premises shall, at no time, interfere with the Public's use of any State land that may be adjacent to the Premises. Lessee shall not prevent Lessor, its agents, or the public from crossing the Premises to access the adjoining State lands.

As this area remains a popular waterfowl hunting area, Lessee agrees that the DNR maintains authority to regulate hunting, trapping, and fishing activities on the Premises.
 5. **ADMINISTRATION** - The Plainwell PRD District Supervisor, or his/her designated representative, is the DNR Administrator of this Lease (collectively, DNR Representative). The Lessee shall designate in writing to the DNR Representative one(1) person and one(1) alternate person responsible to be the contact person for the Lessor regarding the administration of the Lease. This person shall be authorized to make decisions regarding the maintenance and operation of the Premises.
 6. **CONDITION OF PREMISES** - Lessee stipulates, represents and warrants that Lessee has examined the Premises, and that it is taking possession of the Premises in "as is" condition. Lessee acknowledges that it has not made an independent environmental assessment of the Premises, and agrees to maintain the Premises in its present condition.
 7. **TERM** - Lessor shall lease the Premises to Lessee for a twenty-five(25) year initial term of possession beginning upon actual possession at 12:01 a.m. on **May 1, 2008**, and ending at midnight on **April 30, 2033**, or such later date as provided in Section 9. The beginning and ending Lease term dates may be altered by mutual written consent to reflect the actual date of occupancy. If the occupancy date is changed, Section 7 shall also be changed accordingly.

____ INIT

8. **RENT** - Lessee shall pay rent, and/or goods or services, to Lessor in the amount of **\$0.00** per annum. In lieu of cash payment, Lessee will be responsible for the cost of all development, maintenance, operations, and renovations to the site.
- Failure to perform maintenance or improvements to the site as necessary will be grounds for the Department to terminate the Lease.
9. **OPTION TO RENEW** - reserved
10. **SERVICES BY LESSEE** - Lessee shall furnish the following services at its own expense:
- A. Lessee will operate and maintain the Premises as provided for in Section 2A above at its sole expense.
 - B. Prior to beginning any site preparation or construction taking place on the Premises, Lessee will be responsible for providing construction drawings and details, and securing Lessor written approval.
 - C. Lessee responsible for any permits and inspections required, and Lessee must provide copies of permits and inspections to Lessor within five(5) days of receipt.
 - D. Lessee will be responsible for the enforcement of all state laws and local ordinances on the property.
 - E. Lessee shall maintain standards of cleanliness that will reflect favorable public opinion on the Lessee and the DNR. If the DNR Representative determines that the Lessee has failed to maintain an acceptable standard of cleanliness, and, if after forty-eight (48) hours or two(2) working days, following verbal and written notification by the Lessor, the problem is not rectified to the satisfaction of Lessor, Lessor may perform or have the duties of the Lessee performed by others at Lessee's sole expense.
 - F. Lessee is responsible to immediately investigate and report to the Lessor all instances of suspected trespass.
11. **FEES** - Lessee may charge a fee or request donations in connection with Lessee's use of the Premises.
- All fees shall have prior approval of the DNR Representative, if permitted. Differences in admission or use of the Premises may not be instituted on the basis of residence. Any fee that might be charged will be used to operate, restore, maintain and enhance the Premises.
- Furthermore, where snowmobiling is permitted, trails will continue to be operated under a separate snowmobile maintenance and grooming agreement. Lessee may not charge any fee for snowmobile use of the trails.
- Lessee shall keep accurate books, records and accounting of its operations under this Lease distinctly separate and apart from Lessee's other operations. Lessee shall make all reports concerning the operation available to the Lessor at such time as the Lessor may require.
- Lessor, upon thirty (30) days notice, shall have the right to audit books, records and accounting of Lessee's operations for this Lease.
12. **ASSIGNMENT AND SUBLEASE** - Lessee shall neither assign, sublet, nor grant any license for use of the Premises, or any part thereof. Lessee may,

____ INIT

however, enter into maintenance agreements with third parties to fulfill Section 10 above.

13. **ALTERATIONS** - No alterations, modifications, or improvements shall be made to the Premises without the prior written consent of the DNR Representative, which Lessee shall request at least thirty(30) days in advance of such alteration, modification, or improvement. At the expiration or cancellation of the Lease, all alterations, modifications, and improvements to the Premises shall become the property of Lessor unless otherwise agreed in writing by Lessor. In the event that the parties agree that Lessee may remove Lessee improvements, Lessee shall restore the Premises to its original condition.
14. **LAWS, CODES AND PERMITS** - Lessee shall comply with all applicable federal, state or local regulations, including, but not limited to, all environmental laws, and codes and will obtain any necessary permits in connection with its use of the Premises.

Furthermore, Lessee shall comply with all acquisition and development grant obligations existing at the time of this Lease.
15. **DAMAGE and REPAIRS** - Lessee shall make repairs to the Premises resulting from damage that exceeds the normal wear and tear expected from the lawful and proper use of the Premises.
16. **INSPECTION of PREMISES** - Lessor and Lessor's agents and employees shall have the right at all reasonable times during the term of this Lease, and any renewal thereof, to enter the Premises for the purposes of making any inspections, repairs, additions, or alterations as may be deemed appropriate by Lessor for the preservation of the Premises.
17. **INDEMNIFICATION** - Lessee hereby covenants and agrees to indemnify and save harmless, the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees and agents, from any and all claims and demands, for all loss, injury, death or damage, that any person or entity may have or make, in any manner, arising out of any occurrence related to (1) issuance of this Lease; (2) the activities authorized by this Lease; and (3) the use or occupancy of the Premises which are the subject of this Lease by the Lessee, its employees, contractors, or its authorized representatives.
18. **LIABILITY** - Lessee hereby releases, waives, discharges and covenants not to sue the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees and agents, from any and all liability to Lessee, its officers, employees and agents, for all losses, injury, death or damage, and any claims or demands thereto, on account of injury to person or property, or resulting in death of Lessee, its officers, employees or agents, in reference to the activities authorized by this Lease.

Lessee shall report to the Lessor any incident that may result in personal injury or property damage. Lessee shall make complete reports in writing to the DNR Representative on forms provided by the DNR (attached) or such other form approved by the Lessor within 24 hours of any such incident. Incidents resulting in serious personal injury, death, or property damage estimated to exceed \$100.00 are to be reported to the DNR Representative immediately, by telephone or in person. A written report is to follow as described above.

____ INIT

19. **INSURANCE:** Lessee shall provide certificates of insurance listing the State of Michigan, its departments, boards, agencies, commissions, officers, and employees as additional insureds, to Lessor within thirty(30) calendar days following the execution and delivery of this Lease to Lessee, and every year thereafter, for the following insurance coverage. The insurance policies shall provide that they may not be modified, canceled, or allowed to expire without thirty(30) days' prior written notice given to Lessor.
- A. Lessee shall obtain General Liability Insurance, naming Lessor, its officers and employees as additional insureds and protecting against all claims, demands, suits, actions or causes of action and judgments, settlements or recoveries, for bodily injury or property damage arising out of a condition of the Premises, or arising in connection with or as a direct or indirect result of the Lessee's use and occupancy of the Premises or its exercise of the right and privileges granted in the Lease. Lessee agrees to maintain a minimum policy limit, in the amount of:
- \$ 500,000 per occurrence for property damage
\$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury
\$2,000,000 aggregate
- B. Lessee covenants that it will, during the continuance of the term of this Lease, keep the buildings and improvements now or hereafter located on the Premises, insured by an insurance company or companies that has a rating of A- (A minus) or better, as listed by AM Best Co., against loss or damage for all risks as are currently embraced in the standard extended coverage endorsement in the State of Michigan, and in an amount equal to the full replacement value of said buildings and improvements.
- C. Lessee shall obtain Workers' Compensation Insurance for Lessee's employees' claims under Michigan Workers' Compensation Act or similar employee benefit act or any other state act applicable to an employee, along with Employer's Liability Insurance for claims for damages because of bodily injury, occupational sickness or disease or death of an employee when Workers Compensation may not be an exclusive remedy, subject to a limit of liability of not less than \$100,000 each accident.
- D. Lessee shall maintain automobile no-fault coverage as required by law.
- E. Lessor reserves the right to reassess the minimum policy limits requirement set forth above every five(5) years, or as determined necessary by Lessor.
20. **NON-DISCRIMINATION** - Lessee, its agents, employees and subcontractors shall comply with the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, 1976 PA 453 as amended, MCL 37.2101 *et seq.*; MSA 3.548 (101) *et seq.*; the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act, 1976 PA 220, as amended, MCL 37.1101; MSA 3.550 (101) *et seq.*, and all other federal, state and local fair employment practices and equal opportunity laws and covenants that it shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment, to be employed in the performance of this Lease, with respect to his/her hire, tenure, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, or any matter directly or indirectly related to employment, because of his/her race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, or physical or mental disability that is unrelated to the individual's ability

____ INIT

to perform the duties of a particular job or position. Lessee agrees to include in every subcontract entered into for the performance of this Lease, this covenant not to discriminate in employment. A breach of this covenant is a material breach of this Lease. This covenant is cross-referenced in Section 23.

21. **UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES** - Lessee shall comply with the Employers Engaging in Unfair Labor Practices Act, 1980 PA 278, as amended, MCL 423.321 et seq.; MSA 17.458(21) et seq. This covenant is cross-referenced in Section 23.
22. **DISPUTES** - Except as otherwise provided for in this agreement, any dispute among any multiple Lessees that have executed Leases with the DNR to maintain and operate portions of the contiguous Premises, that concern obligations and benefits arising under this agreement, which is not disposed of by this agreement, shall be decided by Parks and Recreation (PRD) Chief, who shall make a written decision and mail or otherwise furnish a copy of the decision to all of the parties.
 - A. The written decision of the PRD Chief provided for above shall be binding upon the parties and shall constitute a final decision of the agency.
 - B. This "Disputes" clause does not preclude consideration of questions of law in connection with decisions provided for in the dispute subparagraph above. Nothing in this agreement, however, shall be construed as making final the decision of any administrative official, representative or board on the question of law.
23. **CANCELLATION** -
 - A. Lessor may cancel this Lease provided Lessee is notified in writing at least thirty(30) days prior to the effective date of cancellation and any one of the following occur:
 - 1) The Premises are no longer being used for the purposes identified in this Lease.
 - 2) Lessee provided the DNR with information, in its application for this Lease or at any time during the Lease term, that was false or fraudulent.
 - 3) Lessee fails to perform any of its obligations under this Lease, and such failure is not cured within ninety(90) calendar days after written notice of default to Lessee.
 - 4) Lessee or any subcontractor, manufacturer or supplier of Lessee appears in the register compiled by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, pursuant to 1980 PA 278, as amended, MCL 423.321 et seq.; MSA 17.458(21) et seq. (Employers Engaging in Unfair Labor Practices Act). This covenant is cross-referenced in Section 21.
 - B. Lessor may cancel this Lease provided Lessee is notified, in writing, at least ninety(90) days prior to the effective date of cancellation, if the DNR deems cancellation is in the best interest of the State of Michigan.
24. **QUIET ENJOYMENT** - Upon payment of the rent and the performance of the conditions outlined herein, Lessee may peacefully and quietly have, hold, and

____ INIT

enjoy the Premises, provided that the use of the Premises by Lessee is maintained open to the general public.

25. **RESERVATION** - Lessor reserves the right to grant rights-of-way and easements of any kind and nature over and across said Premises and to grant or exercise all other rights and privileges of every kind and nature not herein specifically granted.
26. **HOLDOVER TENANCY** - If Lessee remains in possession of the Premises after the natural expiration of this Lease, with the consent of Lessor but without a renewal of this Lease, pursuant to Section 9, a new tenancy from year-to-year shall be created between Lessor and Lessee. The new tenancy shall be subject to all of the terms and conditions of this Lease, except that such tenancy shall be terminable upon fifteen(15) days written notice served by either party.
27. **NOTICES** - Any notice(s) to Lessor or to Lessee required by this Lease shall be complete if submitted in writing and transmitted by personal delivery (with signed delivery receipt), or certified or registered mail, return receipt requested. Unless either party notifies the other in writing of a different mailing address, notices to Lessor and Lessee shall be transmitted to the addresses listed below:

To LESSOR:

Land Administering Division (LAD)

and LAD Administrator

State of Michigan
Department of Natural Resources
Chief, Parks and Recreation Division
P.O. Box 30257
Lansing, Michigan 48909

State of Michigan
Department of Natural Resources
Plainwell Operations Service Center
621 N. 10th Street
Plainwell, MI 49080
Attn: PRD District Supervisor
(269) 685-6851

To LESSEE:

and Lessee Alternate

Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission
12220 Fillmore Street
West Olive, MI 49460
Attn: John Scholtz, Director
(616) 738-4810

28. **NOTICES – EFFECTIVE TIME/DATE** - Notices shall be deemed effective as of 12:00 noon, Eastern Standard Time (EST) on the third(3rd) business day following the date of mailing, if sent by mail. Business day is defined as any day other than a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. A receipt from the U.S. Postal Service, or comparable agency performing such function, shall be conclusive evidence of the date of mailing.
29. **INTERPRETATION** - This Lease shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan.

____ INIT

30. **NO UNNAMED ENTITIES/ PARTNERS** - Lessee covenants that there are no unnamed entities or partners having authority over the operation or management of the Premises and further represents that Lessee is the only entity responsible for carrying out Lessee's responsibilities.
31. **SEVERABILITY** - Should any provision of this Lease, or any addenda thereto, be found to be illegal, or otherwise unenforceable by a court of law, such provision shall be severed from the remainder of the Lease, and such action shall not affect the enforceability of the remaining provisions of the Lease.
32. **REQUIRED APPROVALS** - This Lease shall not be binding or effective on either party until executed (and witnessed and notarized as necessary) by Lessor and Lessee.
33. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND ENCLOSURES** - This Lease constitutes the entire agreement between the parties with regard to this transaction and may be amended only in writing and executed in the same manner as this Lease was originally executed.

LESSOR

WITNESS TO LESSOR

Witness

Yolanda Taylor

(please print)

Witness Signature

Yolanda Taylor 8/6/08

Date

STATE OF MICHIGAN

BY THE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Director or Designee

Ronald A. Olson, Chief

DNR Parks and Recreation

(please print)

Signature

Date

Ronald A. Olson 8/6/08

Witness

(please print)

Witness Signature

Cheri Lee 8/6/08

Date

State of Michigan, County of Ingham

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on this 6th, day of August, 2008, by Ronald A. Olson, for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Diane Munson

Diane Munson, Notary Public

State of Michigan,

County of:

Oakland

My Commission

expires:

July 4, 2011

Acting in the County of: Ingham

DIANE M. MUNSON
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
My Commission Expires July 4, 2011
Acting in the County of Ingham

INIT

LESSEE -

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties to this Lease subscribe their names on the date set forth below:

WITNESS TO LESSEE

Witness

John Scholtz
(please print)
[Signature]
Witness Signature
7/24/08
Date

Lessee

Donald G. Disselkoen
(please print)
[Signature]
Lessee Signature
7-22-08
Date
Title: Chairman
Federal ID No. 38-6004883

Witness

John Scholtz
(please print)
[Signature]
Witness Signature
7/24/08
Date

Lessee

Daniel C. Krueger
(please print)
[Signature]
Lessee Signature
7-22-08
Date
Title: County Clerk
Federal ID No. 38-6004883

State of Michigan, County of Ottawa

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on this 22nd day of July, 2008, by Donald Disselkoen for Lessee.

Daniel Krueger

Sherrell S. Costello

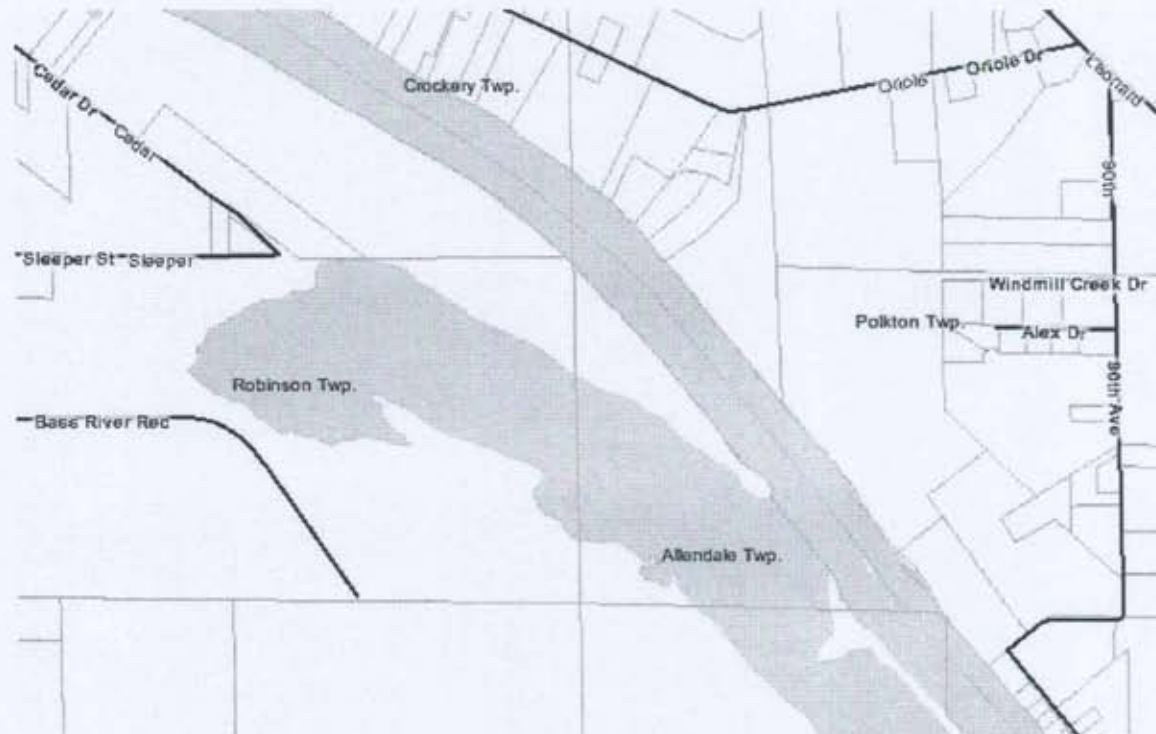
_____, Notary Public

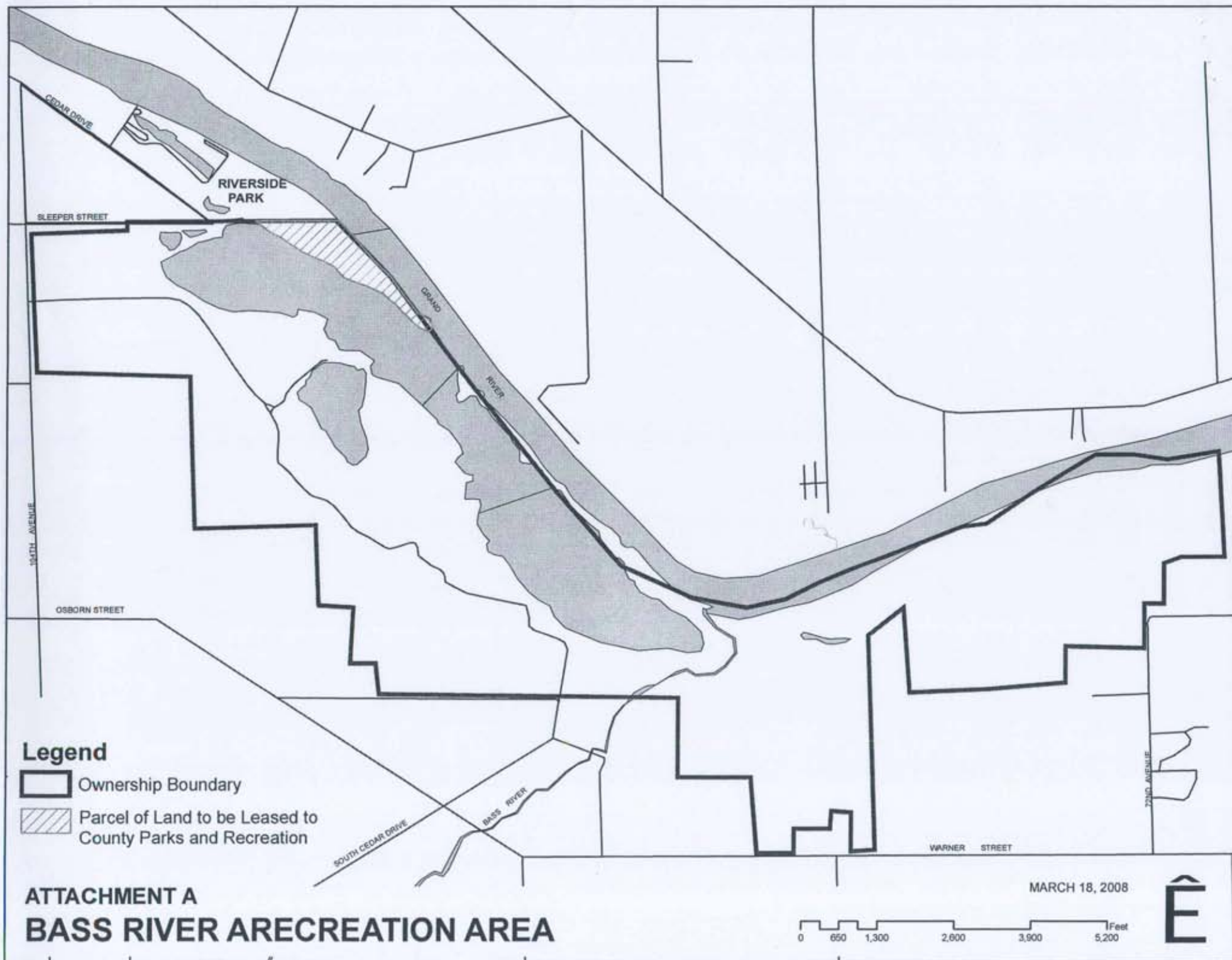
SHERRELL S. COSTELLO
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OTTAWA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 9-11-2013
ACTING IN THE COUNTY OF OTTAWA

State of Michigan, County of Ottawa
My Commission expires: 9-11-2013
Acting in the County of Ottawa

_____, INIT

**ATTACHMENT B
BASS RIVER RECREATION AREA**





ATTACHMENT B
BASS RIVER RECREATION AREA

